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## ***Fight Like a Mom***

Featuring  
***Kim Heinecke***

*Session 1: Prepare for War*

→ ***Session 2: Train Your Troops***

*Session 3: Advance in Battle*

*Session 4: Celebrate Victory*

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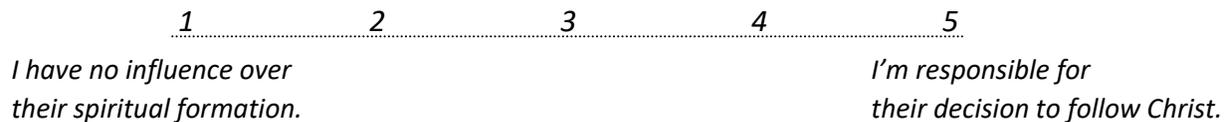
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*John Maxwell said, “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” That could be said of mothers, too – especially moms whose desire it is to introduce her children to Jesus. He is The Way to eternal life. In session two we’ll examine what it means to train your troops. We cannot make the decision to follow Christ on behalf of our children, but we can cultivate knowledge of God’s Word in our homes in such a way that introduces our kids to the life-changing power of the cross. This week we’ll address two key factors that will challenge us to be intentional, creative, and patient.*

1. What is your role regarding your children’s decision to follow Christ? Indicate your position on this spectrum. Explain your answer.



*It isn't easy to commit to one extreme or the other, is it? If you placed an X at either end of the line, this lesson may challenge your position. If you wrestled with the decision of where to place your mark or struggled with rationalizing your answer, you may be closer to the truth than you realized.*

*The first question is tricky. We have a responsibility to teach our children about Jesus, and it's our commission to disciple them. However, each person must choose to follow Jesus themselves. You and I can't "want it" enough to change a person's heart. Only God can reveal to each one their need for a Savior.*

*So where does that leave moms? Should we do or say nothing and cross our fingers that our kids develop an awareness of their sin that turns them toward Christ? Or should we expel all our energy in a life-long campaign to nag them toward the cross (which by the way, won't work)? Let's go back to our key text for this series and draw some life application from **2 Chronicles 14** as we seek to answer the question this week.*

2. Read **2 Chronicles 14** again, paying special attention to **verses 7 and 8**. Note the highlights in the chapter as you read. Does anything different stand out to you from last week?

**2 Chronicles 14** Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land had rest for ten years. <sup>2</sup>And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God. <sup>3</sup> He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim <sup>4</sup> and commanded Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment. <sup>5</sup> He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him: <sup>6</sup>He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the Lord gave him peace. <sup>7</sup>And he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the Lord our God. We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side." So they built and prospered. <sup>8</sup> And Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, armed with large shields and spears, and 280,000 men from Benjamin that carried shields and drew bows. All these were mighty men of valor. <sup>9</sup> Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. <sup>10</sup> And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. <sup>11</sup> And Asa cried to the LORD his God, "O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you." <sup>12</sup> So the LORD defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled. <sup>13</sup> Asa and the people who were with him pursued them as far as Gerar, and the Ethiopians fell until none remained alive, for they were broken before the LORD and his army. The men of Judah<sup>[c]</sup> carried away very much spoil. <sup>14</sup> And they attacked all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD was upon them. They plundered all the cities, for there was much plunder in them. <sup>15</sup> And they struck down the tents of those who had livestock and carried away sheep in abundance and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

**STEP ONE IN TRAINING YOUR TROOPS: CONNECT THE KNOWN TO THE UNKNOWN.**

3. In your own words, write what Asa said to the people in **verse 7**. What were his instructions? What reason did he give for his request?

*Look carefully at **verse 7** and your paraphrase of the text. Asa doesn't simply give his army an order. As the leader, it would have been enough to issue a command and expect his soldiers to follow it. He was strategic in his instructions by relating to their past experience in order to increase their faith for the future. He told them that they had experienced rest because God had granted it to them. Now it was time for them to build up the city to prepare for unknown conflicts that were sure to come.*

*Our training plan is the same when it comes to teaching our children about spiritual truths. Like Asa, we strategically connect the **known** to the **unknown** in order to bring the truth to life for our children. Jesus modeled this well. He used what was common to people, and introduced something unfamiliar in a way that made sense.*

4. Read the following scriptures and notice how Jesus demonstrated connecting the *known* to the *unknown*. For each passage, identify the principle he was teaching and the example he used to help the listeners understand. Circle the words that show the comparison.

**Matthew 5:14-16** <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**Matthew 7:24-27** <sup>24</sup>Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup>And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

*We can see in the examples how Jesus laid out the truth in a practical, easy-to-understand way. He started with what the people knew as common and connected it to a concept that was new to them. Can you see how effective that was? He introduced truth in the context of their world.*

***Matthew 7:28** says, “the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority.” Talking about lamps or houses built on rocks doesn’t sound very complicated, and the people clearly understood the message. He understood His audience and communicated with them according to their spiritual maturity level. He didn’t talk down to them, condemn their ignorance, or berate them with truth. His teaching was gentle, graceful, and relevant.*

*We can do the same with our children—connecting what they know to what they don’t know in the context of their world. The truth is planted in their hearts as we’re intentional and creative, looking for opportunities to sow seeds in fertile soil. Love and grace water it, and the Holy Spirit does His work in our children to make it grow. We plant seeds using practical, relevant situations in our kids’ lives.*

5. When should we introduce biblical truth to our children? Is it reserved for two hours of church each week, or the 30-second prayer before meals? Read **Deuteronomy 6:5-9**. List all the times in which we are called to train our troops.

**Deuteronomy 6:5-9-** <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

*This scripture tells us to love God and tell our kids about Him. Make His Word part of our everyday life. Make it common. Make it familiar. Training our troops means we lead by example. We can do this in a number of ways. For example, let them see us reading the Bible, worshipping, and meeting together with other Christians. Take your kids to church and help them get involved in a youth group with a caring youth pastor. Talk about events in their world and help them see how we can respond to people in a God-honoring way with care, compassion and love, while standing firm on what the Bible teaches us. Model the authority of scripture in your home.*

*Leading by example means more than teaching our children the words in the Bible. We are missing the mark if we only teach them to repeat truth without training them to obey it or modeling it for them.*

6. Read **James 1:22-25**. Notice the *known* to *unknown* connection in this passage. What are some ways you can put **Deuteronomy 6:5-9** and **James 1:22-25** into practice with your children? Brainstorm practical examples.

**James 1:22-25** <sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

#### **STEP TWO IN TRAINING YOUR TROOPS: EMPLOY YOUR WEAPONS.**

7. Read the key passage for this lesson again (**2 Chronicles 14:7-8**). In **verse 8**, how was Asa's army equipped?

8. Examine **2 Corinthians 10:3-4**. How are the weapons we fight with different than the weapons of this world?

**2 Corinthians 10:3-4** <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

9. Read **Ephesians 6:13-18**. Circle the weapons mentioned. Identify how each piece of armor is used. How is each piece important to you as a mom? Complete the chart below.

**Ephesians 6:13-18** <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Armor	How is it used?	Why is this necessary in parenting?
Belt of Truth		
Breastplate of Righteousness		
Shoes of the Gospel of Peace		
Shield of Faith		
Helmet of Salvation		
Sword of the Spirit		

*Parents often use weapons such as inducing guilt, nagging, asserting control, and even shaming in order to steer a situation toward a preferred outcome. In **2 Corinthians 10:3-4**, Paul differentiates the weapons of the flesh from spiritual weapons. Our human nature wants to fight what is tangible with weapons we can manipulate. On the surface, those may feel like sure ways to maintain the upper hand in conflict, but those are neither sanctioned nor effective weapons for a follower of Christ. Think back to lesson 1. If we agree the battle is not against people—but of spiritual forces—then we must concede the weapons required for victory are spiritual as well.*

*We **fight like a mom** with the spiritual weapons that destroy strongholds, not just weaken them. Read the list of armor again, and visualize the weapons that win the war. When we make the truth found in scripture common and familiar in our homes, we are outfitting our children with spiritual armor. The enemy has no advantage over the well-equipped soldier.*

*Let's pause for a moment to address one important concern you may have. What happens when we invest years teaching our children to know God, and training them to put on spiritual armor, and still they don't make a choice to follow Him? It requires a patient heart on our part. We will address this in week 3.*

10. Write a prayer asking God to give you a creative, intentional mind to connect His Word to the lives of your kids. Pray with boldness that you can be a doer of the Word. Ask Him for patience to trust Him when you don't see an immediate response.

*Go back and look at your answer in the first question. What is our role in our child's decision to follow Christ? The answer lies somewhere in the middle. Our children will come to a decision about faith in Christ on their own, but we do have an influence. We can't choose Christ for them, but we can unapologetically live out our faith in front of them. Our children are longing to witness something real.*

*We train our troops by connecting the **known** to the **unknown** with spiritual conversations that are common and familiar. Fight to lay the spiritual foundation in your home so that when our children are face-to-face with the enemy on a spiritual battlefield, they'll recognize Truth. Arm yourself, and train your troops for battle with spiritual weapons. In the words of King Asa, "The land is still ours, because God has entrusted it to us." **Fight like a mom** on behalf of the ones entrusted to you. Train your troops to meet the Master.*



"When we make the truth found in scripture common and familiar in our homes, we are outfitting our children with spiritual armor. The enemy has no advantage over the well-equipped soldier."

-Kim Heinecke, *Fight Like a Mom*

#### **Notes for Small Group Discussion:**

1. Briefly share your thoughts on the video.
2. Briefly talk about spiritual concepts you learned.
3. Share with your group a choice you need to make that will honor God.
4. Consider practical ways to find accountability with these truths.

To share your thoughts regarding this study, contact us at [info@ariseministries.net](mailto:info@ariseministries.net).

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#### **Series Author**

Kim serves as the Director of Operations with Arise Ministries and coordinates the online Bible study content. As a former single mom, she uses her life experiences and personal spiritual growth through studying God's Word to encourage women. Kim writes for [www.AriseMinistries.net](http://www.AriseMinistries.net) and for her personal website [The Mom Experiment](http://TheMomExperiment.com).