



FIGHT FOR YOUR CHILDREN | PART 2

WEEK 5 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

This week in the series, *Fight For*, we will discover the traits of a mother of influence.

DISCUSSION

Today, we will look in **1 Samuel** at the life of Hannah, who knew what it meant to fight for her children. She struggled to conceive a child and therefore was filled with shame while being mocked and ridiculed. But instead of fighting back, she took her frustrations to God in prayer.

Four Defining Traits of a Mother of Influence:

1. A Mother of Influence refuses to become bitter.

Read **1 Samuel 1:9-11**. Hannah had unfulfilled expectations. The potential was there for her to become very bitter toward both God and Peninnah. Instead, she decided to bring her pain to God. She learned how to control and focus her thoughts on the Lord and not her pain.

In the same way, Paul tells us in **Ephesians 4:31: *Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*** It doesn't mean we don't experience hurt at times, but we give up the right to live offended. Through the cross, we can let it go. Jesus said on the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!" He saw the bigger picture – hurt people hurt people. We can release the offense to God. The price has been paid for our sin and for the sin of those who have hurt us.

- Is there a current situation you are facing where bitterness is trying to sneak in? What can you do to protect yourself from becoming bitter?

2. A Mother of Influence prays passionately.

In **1 Samuel 1:12-18**, Hannah prays passionately to God. She expressed her faith, concerns, and challenges to God through prayer. God oftentimes uses our problems to turn to Him. Because of a mother's faith, God turned an impossible situation around for Hannah!

- Read Matthew 7:7. Is there anything in your life that you've given up asking God for? How can you increase your faith in that area?

3. A Mother of Influence commits her children to the Lord.

In **1 Samuel 1:27-28**, Hannah promises to give her son to God. Ultimately, to dedicate our kids to the Lord means we are relying on God for His intervention and help in raising our kids.

- Are there any relationships or situations that you need to give to God?

4. A Mother of Influence invests in her children.

In **1 Samuel 2:18-20**, we see that Hannah constantly invested in the life of her child. One of the greatest ways we can invest in our children is by spending quality time with them. Hannah not only spoke faith over Samuel's life as a baby, thanking the Lord for him as a gift to her, but she made an ongoing, practical commitment to see him fulfill his destiny. A woman of influence does whatever is necessary to see their kids reach their destiny.

- One of the greatest ways we can invest in others is to pray. How can we be more intentional when we pray for others?

LIFE CHALLENGE

This week, ask God how you can be a greater influence in the next generation. It could be through prayer, serving at limitless or king's kids, paying for a child or teenager to go to VBS or Rev Con, inviting your children or relatives to be a part of summer church events, etc. Pray and help them grow into all God created them to be!

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER