

Session 1

Taking charge of our words is a challenge. Deep into the school year is usually when I begin to have a breakdown of resolve. The kids can sense the chink in my armor. It seems like when I am tired and overwhelmed I have the worst control over my mouth. I think this is why God speaks so often about the power of the tongue. Never underestimate the influence of your words over your family. I have seen the contagious power of my words, optimistically spreading joy and determination, or conversely, spread frustration and criticism.

Task 1 - The challenge this week to take an intentional inventory of all negative keywords that have crept into your narrative.

How do you describe your children, spouse or your friends?

Are there areas that you have become passive (complaining) instead of actively seeking solutions? What are those areas?

Task 2 - What are some ways that you could get forward momentum again? Brainstorm about places, people of resources you could be turning to for help.

Anxiety in the heart of a man brings him down, but a good word makes him glad. Prov. 12:25
Are you making sure that you are exposed to daily positive words. I have found that time in God's word and regular fellowship with people who enjoy my company fills my heart so I am better able to cope with the hardships that parenting brings. You are responsible for the care and keeping of your own heart before you can care for the heart of your children.

Task 3 – Let's reflect on someone that you know that is positive.
Who is your favorite influencer?

What is it about them that inspires you?

Session 2

We have talked in articles past about assessing your school year, curriculum and set-up to make changes. I would like you to spend this week taking a different approach. I am asking you to assess the things you enjoy. Building a strong personal narrative is a great way to help you see all of the positive strides and achievements you might take for granted during the busy seasons of life. I challenge you to go deeper than you ever have before, because you need a deep pool of joyful resources to be thankful for on hard days.

Daily Task – For the next few days I would like for you to spend about 30 minutes writing positive statements about different areas of your life. The assignment is at least one page. That might seem like a lot, but don't be tempted to skimp. I want you to have the opportunity to go beyond surface level thoughts. I was challenged to see my daughter through fresh eyes in difficult times and it changed the whole way I saw my situation. I hope that you will be encouraged as well.

Day 1 - What do you love about schooling at home?

Day 2 – Spend time writing positives about the people closely surrounding you; your children, your spouse and any other people that are working closely with you as you homeschool. What do you love about them? What strengths do you see?

I love where the scriptures talk about Mary as she “treasured these things in her heart.” Let these pages be a treasure to you as well. As a writer I share quite a bit from my own life, but there are moments that I alone treasure. Write down these favorite moments with the people you love and savor them.

Day 3 – What are your strengths? Spend some time reflecting on the positives about you. Can you fill a whole page with the great things that God has deposited in you. Ask Him to show you your hidden strengths and to show you the truth about His creation.

You are the only one called to live out God's calling for you. What makes you unique, what are your strengths, where have you overcome opposition and victory?

Session 3

It is good that we are reminded what it means to humble ourselves and serve others. Parents who homeschool tend to desire to impart their convictions into the next generation. Can we lead with inspiration? I hope that you are striving to become like the greatest influencer of all, Christ.

Task 1 – Tell me about your greatest influencer.

Task 2 – Who are the influencers in your life now? If you are a leader where can you find mentors that can challenge you?

I have several Pod Casters that I listen to on a regular basis. They might not be people that I know, but I am always changed by their words and teachings. In this age of technology there is no shortage of ways to connect with leaders and influencers. If you do not have someone close to you find a way to connect with someone that you find that challenges you to grow.

Task 3 – Where are you influencing the world around you for Christ? I challenge you to look for a place that you can pour out into others if you are not already doing so.

As we pour out to others we are strengthened. It is not my desire that you be overwhelmed but that you do not let being busy rob you of the blessing of serving others.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”
Galations 6:9