

MAKE IT AWKWARD

Video Summary

We have invited some friends to share with you stories and ideas that spark conversation. These videos were curated to engage and inspire every mom in your meetup. When used in conjunction with questions, activities and fun bonus materials, each video is the starting point for thought-provoking connections, heartfelt storytelling and the opportunity to share about Jesus.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

MAKE IT AWKWARD

Mandy Arioto – mandyarioto.co

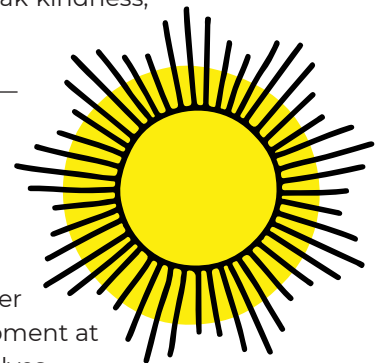
In a world that values polish over vulnerability, Mandy Arioto, president and CEO of MomCo, encourages us to reclaim the power of awkwardness. Unpack what it means to own your story, speak kindness, practice audacious faith and enjoy the joy of the life you have.

SPEAK KINDNESS

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Jennifer Iverson – jenniferiverson.com

The words we speak are powerful. They have influence not only over ourselves, but over our families, friends and community. Jennifer Iverson, Director of Leadership Development at MomCo, explores ways we can speak more kindly to those around us, including ourselves.



SURRENDER YOUR STRESS

Barb Roose – barbroose.com

As mothers, we encounter stress in many areas of our lives. Barb Roose, author and speaker, gives us a universal tool that can help us surrender our stress and find the peace we wish we had.

REST AND RENEWAL

Debra Fileta – debrafileta.com

Moms care for others often at the cost of caring for themselves. Debra Fileta, a licensed professional counselor, uses Jesus' life as an example for why it is important for moms to get rest and renewal in their lives.

KINDNESS FOR YOUR BODY

Lisa Whittle – lisawhittle.com

Motherhood brings up many emotions about our physical bodies. Lisa Whittle, best-selling author and speaker, sheds light on the lies we often believe and how that impacts our motherhood.

GOD'S LOVE AT EASTER

Derwin Gray – derwinlgray.com

Have you ever stopped to think about what is so special about Easter? Pastor Derwin Gray of Transformation Church passionately shares what the Easter story makes possible.

ENJOY THE JOY

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Sherri Crandall – sherricrandall.com

True joy comes from embracing the moment, cultivating gratitude, and recognizing God's presence in our everyday lives. Sherri Crandall, Vice President of Global Ministries and Leadership Experience at The MomCo, explains how moms can fall into the trap of thinking happiness lies in the future, but this mindset limits our ability to experience joy in the present.

A BLESSING FOR MOMS

Nichole Tautz – [instagram.com/nicholetautz](https://www.instagram.com/nicholetautz)

Nichole Tautz, mom of two adult kids and MomCo Board Chair, offers a word of encouragement for the hard and beautiful journey of motherhood.

AWKWARD FRIENDSHIPS

Simi John – simijohn.tv

Author and speaker Simi John invites us to break up with friendship stereotypes to help us develop the authentic friendships we all long for.

THE AWKWARD FIRST CHRISTMAS

Julie Fisk and Kendra Roehl – theruthexperience.com

The first Christmas did not look like anything we try to create today. Julie Fisk and Kendra Roehl of The Ruth Experience break down the cast of characters and show just how imperfect it was.

AUTHENTIC INTIMACY

Dr. Juli Slattery – authenticintimacy.com

Dr. Juli Slattery, a clinical psychologist and expert in marriage and sexuality, provides insights to help couples navigate the challenges of maintaining a healthy sexual relationship while raising young children. Here, she offers practical advice and emotional encouragement for couples striving to build a stronger, more connected marriage.



OWN YOUR STORY

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Andrea Fortenberry – andreafortenberry.com

All of our lives are unique—our own story. Parts of our story are fun, but other parts are hard. Andrea Fortenberry, speaker, author and podcaster, shows us that when we are vulnerable with our story and share it with others, we may find beautiful rewards.

AWKWARD COMMUNITY

Bona Miekley – bonamiekley.com

Making friends isn't an easy task, but, as moms, having a community is so important to our emotional health. Bona Miekley, MomCo leader and life coach, shares her experience with making friends and offers a few tips to make it a little easier.

MY STORY OF LOSS

Heather Baker – journeyauthenticallycouples.com

Heather Baker shares her journey through infertility and pregnancy loss, offering hope and practical support for those facing similar struggles. Her story highlights the power of faith, community and seeking support during life's hardest moments.



TRUSTING GOD WITH OUR GRIEF

Natasha Smith - imnatashasmith.com

Natasha Smith, certified grief educator, speaker, and author helps us define grief and reminds us that with God, we never grieve alone. She provides helpful steps we can take as we cope with grief.

GIVING UP CONTROL

Joel Muddamalle - muddamalle.com

When life gets chaotic, it is in our nature to seek to control the situation, to bring a feeling of peace. Theologian, Joel Muddamalle, explores the eternal truths of hope and comfort of Psalm 46, giving us true peace.

AUDACIOUS FAITH

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Stacey Morgan - staceymorgan2000.com

What if God is calling us to more than safety and comfort? Author and MomCo staff, Stacey Morgan, encourages us to get a little risky, try new things, and live with an audacious faith.

THE WORK OF MOTHERHOOD

Meredith King - meredithkingblog.com

Meredith King, mom of two and Leadership Strategist, reflects on the legacy of strong working women in her family, highlighting how all types of work serve a divine purpose in building God's kingdom. She encourages women to embrace their unique roles, reminding them that they are seen and valued by God, despite the challenges of balancing career and motherhood.

BUILDING RESOURCEFULNESS IN KIDS

David Thomas & Sissy Goff - raisingboysandgirls.com

Sissy Goff and David Thomas, therapists at Daystar Counseling Ministries, explore how parents can foster resourcefulness and resilience in their children to build confidence and combat anxiety. They emphasize the importance of children tackling life's challenges and learning practical skills so that they can grow in independence.

SEEDS OF FAITH

Izabella McMillon - themom.co/occ

MomCo moms have sent millions of boxes to kids through Operation Christmas Child for over 25 years. Izabella McMillon expresses gratitude for how God takes our small offerings and multiplies them.

STEP INTO THE AWKWARD

Peter Mutabazi - worldvision.org

It's natural to want to avoid awkward moments, but what if they invite us into more? Peter Mutabazi, World Vision Senior Director of Church Engagement, tells his story of how such a moment changed his life and gave him hope for the future. He teaches us how to step out of our comfort zone and into the awkward to love others.



LEADER

MAKE IT AWKWARD

Mandy Arioto – mandyarioto.co

Mandy Arioto, president and CEO of The MomCo, encourages leaders to embrace courage, be open to uncomfortable moments, and step into God's calling to lead a new Jesus revolution, through the transformative work of MomCo leadership.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Sherri Crandall – sherriocrandall.com

Sherri Crandall, Vice President of Global Ministries at The MomCo, discusses the importance of succession planning in leadership to ensure the continued success and growth of the ministry. She shares personal insights and practical tips on mentoring potential leaders, empowering them with knowledge, and creating opportunities for growth to build a legacy of service and excellence for your meetup.

SPIRITUAL HEALTH: PRAYER AND FASTING

Annie F. Downs – anniefdowns.com

Fasting is a topic that we often don't talk about in regard to our leadership. Annie F. Downs — speaker, author and podcaster — teaches why fasting is a spiritual discipline and how to incorporate it into our lives.

CHURCH CONNECTION AND IMPACT

Pastor Ed Ollie – instagram.com/edolliejr

MomCo impacts moms and moms impact families, both in the here and now and for eternity. Pastor Ed Ollie encourages us about the significance of being a MomCo leader.

RISK TAKING FOR LEADERS

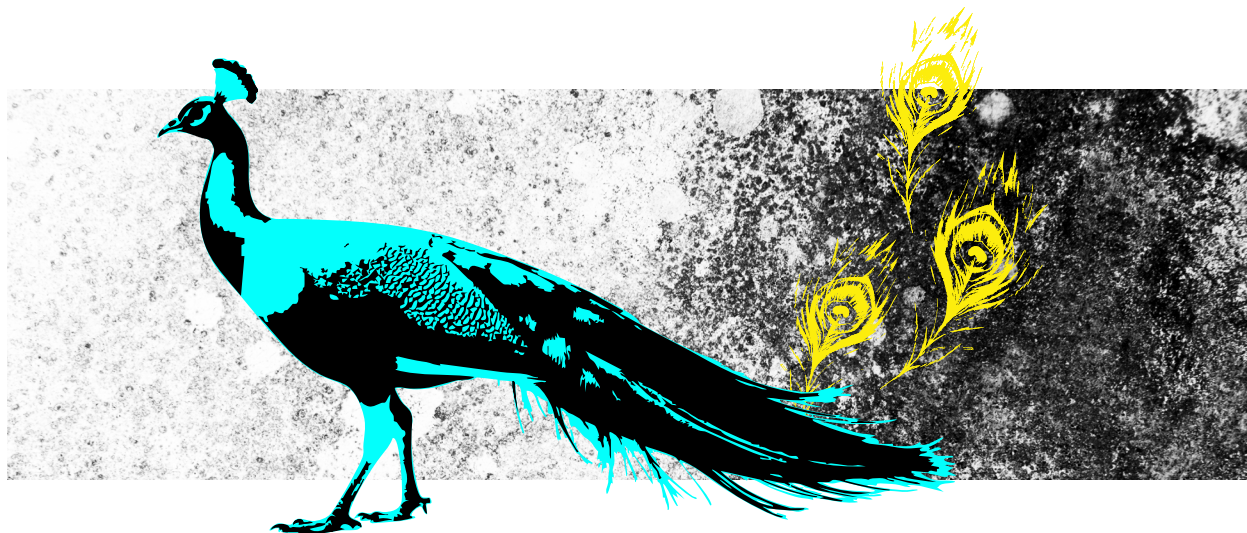
Stacey Morgan – staceymorgan2000.com

Risks are scary, but they are an opportunity for our faith to grow. Author, speaker and MomCo staffer Stacey Morgan encourages us to step out of our comfort zones and take risks in our leadership. She reminds us that God takes us on epic adventures when we are willing to face our fears and step into trying new things.

CARING FOR MOMS THROUGH LOSS

Heather Baker – journeyauthenticallycouples.com

Heather Baker shares her journey through infertility and pregnancy loss and offers tips for leaders on how to walk alongside moms who experience the loss of a child.



THE MOMCO