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TED TALK

***MEET THE WOMEN  
FIGHTING ON THE  
FRONT LINES OF AN  
AMERICAN WAR***

**BY GAYLE TZEMACH LEMMON**

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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Individually or as a group, watch the TED Talk “Meet the Women Fighting on the Front Lines of an American War” by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon (available at [leanin.org/women-war](https://leanin.org/women-war)). Use the questions below for a group discussion on the themes and ideas presented in the video.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How did you feel after watching this video? Go around your circle and have everyone share a brief (30- to 45-second) response. After everyone has shared, discuss your reactions.
- Gayle says, “If you want to understand what’s happening in a community and in a home, you talk to women, whether you’re talking about southern Afghanistan or Southern California.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
- Gayle describes the Special Ops women as “living in the and”—they proved women could be “fierce and feminine, love CrossFit and cross-stitch, love to climb out of helicopters and also love to bake cookies.” What are some ways that you “live in the and”?
- Do you feel that “living in the and” is possible in your workplace? Why or why not?
- Gayle notes that alongside the Special Ops women were men who wanted to see them succeed. Are there men in your personal or professional life who have been especially supportive of you and wanted you to succeed?
- While serving in Afghanistan, many of the women soldiers had to choose between the “hard right versus easy wrong.” Have you ever had to make a choice like this? What did you do? Why?
- During the competition for a spot on a Special Ops team, many of the women soldiers said they felt like they had finally found a community where they fit in and didn’t have to apologize for who they are. Do you have a community or group where you’re able to truly be yourself?

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## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

- Gayle encourages us to celebrate the “unsung heroines.” Who are two women in your life whom you would like to recognize and celebrate? Why did you choose them? (Bonus: Tell them that you appreciate them!)
- If you serve (or served) in the military: Gayle talks about “serving with purpose.” What motivated you to serve? Were there women along the way who were inspirational?