



AUGUST: WOMEN'S MONTH

Set during Women's Month, this theme invites us to take an honest look at how women have been left out of important spaces especially where big decisions are made in the church, in society, and in theology. The idea of a 'round table' helps us imagine something better: a space where everyone has a voice, where people are seen and valued, and where power is shared, not controlled by a few. Unlike the usual boardroom or dinner table where the person at the head holds the most influence, a round table reminds us of shared leadership, mutual respect, and working together as equals.

As we search for this kind of table, we're also shining a light on the unfair systems that still exist around us. We're asking real, hard questions: '*Who is missing from our tables?*', '*Who hasn't been heard?*', '*What kind of community are we building?*' This is about more than just seats and spaces. It's also about the future. What kind of church, what kind of leadership, what kind of theology are we passing on to the next generation? Are we making room for our daughters, sisters, mothers, and elders to fully lead, speak, dream, and serve? Are we building spaces where they don't have to fight to belong—but know they are already welcome and needed? That's why **In search of a round table** is not just a theme but a journey. It invites us to reflect on where we've been and to reimagine where we're going. Most of all, calling us to build a community that reflects God's love and that radically welcomes all.



Week 1: Whose table is it anyway?

Week 2: Where are the empty chairs?

Week 3: When the round table is not round

Week 4: A Theology of mutuality at the table

Week 5: Preparing the table for the next generation

Week 4: A Theology of mutuality at the table.



This session calls for a theological shift from command and control to communion and collaboration. A theology of mutuality reimagines church and community life not around command and control, but around participation. Mutuality affirms each person's worth and contribution, honoring the divine image in all.

Home Groups and classes guide:

1. Open in Worship and Prayer: this is to invite God into the meeting. For example, you can light a candle, sing together, or use a YouTube Hymn or song.
2. Open your Bibles and read the Bible verses for this week (take turns?) see below.
3. Reflect on the Bible verses and the reflection written by a Minister or Lay Preacher.
4. Connect with each other and take the reflection deeper by answering the Questions.
5. Works out: What have we learned that we can apply in our lives in this session? Keep each other accountable for promises made or important steps taken. Pray for and over each other (after taking prayer requests).

Scripture readings:

John 4:1–30 (Jesus and the Samaritan woman in mutual theological exchange)

Judges 4 - 5 (Deborah and Barak in a co-leadership model)

Psalms 133 (How good it is when kindred dwell in unity)

Hymn/Song: More Than Able (feat. Chandler Moore & Tiffany Hudson) | Elevation Worship:

<https://youtu.be/dQ1xxoP7Njk?si=8NXYg63lJESwJXQc>

Reflections on the Bible readings written by: LAY PREACHER YVONNE ROBERG

The psalmist in Psalm 133 pronounces a blessing on those who live together in unity. When the Israelites travelled to Jerusalem for their yearly pilgrimage there would have been this huge mix of people from different tribes, different walks of life and regions travelling together with one common aim: to worship God in the temple in Jerusalem. The priests in the temple were anointed with sacred oil and it was in the temple that they prepared to bless the people of Israel and grant them God's forgiveness. The psalmist compares God's people living together in unity to precious oil, and a lot of it, being poured out onto one's head.... The oil is so plentiful that it overflows onto the person's face and beard and runs down onto his collar. The blessing for those who remain in unity is envisioned as plentiful, bountiful, generous and luxurious.

Anointing oil was sacred and only to be used in very specific circumstances to anoint priests. But in this Psalm, there seems to be a break with the conservative use of the oil, it is poured out generously and creates this wonderful image in our minds of God's wonderfully extravagant blessing over his church and saints that maintain unity.

Deborah was a woman in the Old Testament who acted almost as a governor over Israel. Deborah prophesizes and advises Barak on how to conquer Sisera and Jabin's army. God entrusted Deborah as someone who could speak on his behalf and as mother over Israel, she safeguarded them as a nation but also as children of God. Interestingly, it is also the Samaritan women at the well in the gospel of John to whom Jesus reveals his sonship to. Once she realizes who Jesus is, she returns to her community and tells them about Jesus, acting as one of the first evangelists in the Bible.

Women have always been part of God's plan. It was never intended that they would be excluded from communion with God and his church in anyway. These two women demonstrate God's providence over women and his love for women in general. Women have always been included and participated in salvation history and played an important role of bearers of the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When the church includes women and sees them as essential partners who participate in all aspects of church life; that unity is blessed by God abundantly....just like fragrant oil, being generously poured over one's head.

Questions to take the Scripture and reflection deeper:

1. Who are the women in the Bible whose stories have left a mark on you?
2. How do you feel about women filling roles of leadership in the church?
3. What gifts do you feel women have that are essential to edify the church?

Memory verse for the week:

Entrench this verse in your mind, ponder it, meditate on it.

Monday **Psalm 133:1** *“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”*

Tuesday **John 4:10** *“Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.’”*

Wednesday **John 4:13** *“Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,’¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’”*

Thursday **John 4:23-24** *“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”*

Friday **John 4:25-26** *“The woman said, ‘I know that Messiah’ (called Christ) ‘is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.’²⁶ Then Jesus declared, ‘I, the one speaking to you—I am he.’”*

Family time – Written by: **MAGOGODI NKUNA** (VOLUNTEER)

Week 4 A Legacy That Guides Generations

Scripture: Psalm 78: 1–7

“We will not hide them from their children but tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done.” — Psalm 78:4 (NIV)

A legacy is something handed down from the past, such as values, achievements, and even consequences. Psalm 78 calls us to be intentional about the legacy we leave, especially when it comes to faith and the knowledge of God. Parents naturally desire to leave a good legacy for their children. They want to make life easier for the next generation. They hope their children won’t suffer because of their mistakes but instead benefit from their wisdom and experience.

But legacy is more than protection, it’s instruction. Children must learn from their parents’ past: the good things, so they can continue in them; and the not-so-good things, so they can avoid repeating them. This is how wisdom is passed down. This is how faith is built across generations.

Psalm 78 reminds us that we must tell our children of God’s mighty works, so they will set their hope in Him, remember His faithfulness, and walk in His ways. A godly legacy is not automatic; it’s cultivated through honesty, humility, and intentional teaching.

Family reflection

Adults

- What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind for my children?

Children:

- Are there values or habits you’ve inherited from your parents that you want to continue?

Closing Prayer

Father, help us to leave a legacy that honours You. Teach us to share the victories and the failures with grace and truth. May our children learn from our lives and grow in wisdom and faith. Let Your name be praised through every generation. Amen.