



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 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 5: Preparing the table for the next generation.

Legacy, responsibility, and intergenerational discipleship. This topic raises a critical question: are we cultivating a table that the next generation can inherit with dignity and purpose? Or are we preserving spaces that no longer speak to the needs and hopes of those who come after us?

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:

Luke 1:39–56 (Mary and Elizabeth: generations meet in prophetic joy)

1 Chronicles 28:8–21 – David instructs Solomon to build the temple

Psalms 78:1–7 – “We will tell the next generation...”

Hymn/Song: Lizzie Morgan, Seph Schlueter - Not My Will / Yes Lord, yes (Official Live Video)

<https://youtu.be/sijM3bHYCOo?si=XC-BqjvZugwksj2>

Reflections on the Bible readings written by: REV ZAMANI SIKUPELA.

Luke 1:39-56. Mary lived during the time when she would be shunned and even stoned if someone were to find out about her pregnancy outside of marriage. You can imagine the conflicting emotions she must have felt when she received the news. She may have felt so alone in her predicament. You can imagine how encouraged she must have been when the angel told her that her relative Elizabeth who had been barren and was not likely to have successful pregnancy as an older woman, was also going through a similar miraculous pregnancy. God gives us each other for a purpose. He places people in our lives to come alongside us. He knows we need each other. God used Elizabeth to strengthen and confirm Mary's calling and pointed her to glorify God. As expecting mothers, they may have benefited from each other's help in the day-to-day, sharing fears, concerns, and joys. What a good and loving God we have, who frequently calls us to share life with one another for the purposes of building one another up.

He gives us the church body so that we can point each other to God. All of us on this journey draw strength from our fellow sisters and brothers, who encourage us, listen to us and walk with us. We must be thankful to God for the body of Christ and be intentional in coming alongside each other and be steadfast in sharing life and pointing each other to Jesus. Mary and Elizabeth's joy is bigger than they can contain because it is not theirs alone. It belongs also to countless generations that came before them and to many after them, even our generation. And what cannot be contained must be shared. God's story is multi-generational. So, look, this week especially, for the expectations, hope and joy that are shared between and among people of all ages.

1 Chronicles: 28:8-21. From this passage we learn that it is important for all of us to acknowledge that we were all at one time in the category of the 'next generation', and we are all here today because of the way others from preceding generations cared about us. In other words, we have all been recipients of the care and focus of older generations. This is a missing culture today. Most people today are just interested in taking what they can, often at the expense of the next generation. If, for example, as a country we continually multiply our debt, that will have to be paid back by our children and grandchildren. Like David, we ought to be working to pay off the debt and then build up a surplus so that the next generation could enjoy it and then also build upon it for their children.

We must work very hard so that the next generation could have what we would never have. We must strive to leave behind something that will help the future generations fulfill God's will in their lives. We must care about the next generation because God does.

Psalm 78: 1-7. The passing on the faith to the next generations is a sacred trust God has given to us. We have a responsibility not just to our generation, but to future generations. Our responsibility is not just to the people who live around us, it extends beyond ourselves to the next generation. There are generations yet to come: our children, our grandchildren. We must in some way pass the faith along. The whole intent is to pass on to the next generation the wonders and works of God. We must tell them about the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord because we want them also to put their trust in God. We mustn't fail on this duty. May it not be said of us that we hid from the next generation the wonders that God has done. We must ensure that the next generation knows who God is, as well as what God has done, and what God will do. If we are faithful in doing that, the next generation will turn their world upside down for Jesus. Their future is in our hands, and if we are faithful in this task we will see God do something incredible.

Questions to take the Scripture and reflection deeper:

1. Do you have people whom you share your life with? Are they pointing you to Jesus? Are you pointing them to Jesus?
2. What are you doing today that will make the world a better place for your children and grandchildren?
3. In what specific ways can you be involved in equipping the next generation to be bold followers of Christ?

Memory verse for the week:

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

Psalm 71: 18 "So even when I am old and my hair is gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all those who are to come"

PRAYER

Lord, we pray for next generation, our kids and grandkids, that they will know you, love you, and walk with you all the days of their life. That they would not turn aside to false gods in this world. In Jesus' name we pray, AMEN!

Family time – Written by: Jenny Blake – Children's Pastor

Preparing the Table for the Next Generation

Scripture: John 4:1–30

Opening Thought

What kind of "table" are we preparing for the next generation? Are we creating spaces where young people can ask honest questions, belong fully, and meet Jesus for themselves? Or are we holding on to traditions that no longer speak to their lives?

In this story, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well. They share a deep conversation -not just about water, but about truth, worship, and belonging. She doesn't keep the moment to herself. She runs back to her village and invites others in. She becomes the first evangelist in her community someone who opens the way for others, including the next generation, to meet Jesus.

That's what legacy looks like. Jesus models listening, inclusion, and dignity. The woman responds with courage and purpose. And the community is changed.

Scripture Reading: John 4:1–30 (NIV)

"Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?'" (John 4:28–29)

Reflecting Together

The Samaritan woman didn't wait until she had everything figured out to make a difference. She simply shared what she had experienced. That's how faith is passed on: not by perfection, but by participation. Jesus didn't just answer her questions. He treated her like a conversation partner. He made space for her voice. He offered something that would last beyond her lifetime: living water.

As families, churches, and communities, we must ask:

- Are we preparing a table where the next generation can meet Jesus honestly and joyfully?
- Or are we protecting traditions that feel safe to us, but might leave others out?

Discussion Questions for Teenagers (Ages 12–18)

- Have you ever felt like faith spaces (like church or family devotions) aren't made with your generation in mind? What would make them more welcoming or meaningful?
- Jesus listened to the woman and spoke with her as an equal. How can you follow His example with younger kids or even adults?
- The woman shared her experience of Jesus immediately. How could you do the same even if you don't have all the answers?
- What do you think the "table of faith" should look like for your generation? What needs to stay, and what needs to change?
- What kind of legacy would you like to leave for the kids who come after you in faith, kindness, and courage?

Discussion Questions for Younger Children (Ages 4–11)

- Have you ever helped someone younger than you or shared something that made them happy?
- Why do you think Jesus talked kindly to the woman instead of ignoring her?
- Can you think of a time someone listened to you, and it made you feel special?
- What's one way we can show God's love to others this week especially someone younger or new?
- What does it mean to make room at the table for others? How could we do that at home or at church?

Family Activity: Setting the Table for the Future

You'll need: **A piece of paper and pens or crayons.**

Draw a big table together. Around the table, write or draw:

- People you want to make space for (friends, neighbours, younger children, etc.)
- Words you want to hear and say at that table (kindness, honesty, hope, courage...)
- What "living water" might look like for your family (a life full of joy, welcome, faith, and love)

Talk about this:

"How can we make sure this table doesn't end with us? What can we pass on?"

Display your drawing as a reminder that this table, our faith, our family, our values, is something worth sharing with those who come next.

Prayer

Jesus,

You welcome us with living water and open arms.

Help us to build a table that the next generation can sit at with joy.

Teach us to listen, to share, and to pass on faith that is real and full of love.

Thank You for including us in Your story.

Amen.