

SISTERHOOD

Lounge Room



From our lounge room to yours!

Episode 5 | Generations
Handout Week 2

SPIRITUAL MUMS

Nicola asked her mother if there had been other 'spiritual mum's' in her life and what the value of them were to her. Rachel reminded us that teenagers especially need other 'parents', as they are commonly unwilling to heed their own parents' voices. Rachel referred to a time of being bullied at boarding school and of a woman taking her under her wing where she safely was able to unpack and express her pain. Every family has strengths and weaknesses, and receiving different input is helpful, which is what makes a church family so valuable. Rachel mentioned other voices in her adult life that empowered her to ministry or helped set boundaries. We never outgrow the need for mature people with their gifts who compliment and shape us. And importantly, we need to be vulnerable to receive this gift into our lives.

Rachel speaks of how crucial it is that the generations do life together in church. Different generations bring different strengths: youth bring energy and risk. Older generation bring experience, rootedness, wisdom, protection, and stability

Q/ Share stories of a spiritual parent who impacted your life

Q/ Discuss the necessity of vulnerability to enabling the benefit of a spiritual parent relationship

Loved this month's episode?
Well so did we!

Here are a few additional questions, scriptures, and thoughts from Nicola and her family as they gathered to discuss generations.

Rachel mentioned two things God revealed to her that make a good spiritual mum: To remember that you do not own people but that you steward them. Some people are given into your life for a long term and others for a short season. Secondly, to allow them to run with you and give them opportunity to have a go.

She reminds those who are seeking a spiritual mum to learn the grace of letting them into your life and allowing them to correct you. Family tells you straight and we need to allow for that.

Q/ Discuss practically what allowing someone to speak into your life means.

Q/ Do you like feedback? Do you find it easy to be corrected? What environment do you feel comfortable to receive correction and feedback?

Q/ When giving loving correction what are some of the important factors to take in to account?

ROCK SOLID FOUNDATION

Eileen, Nicola's grandmother, has been a Christian for 60+ years and Nicola asked her what she has learned on the journey. Eileen shared that initially we need to establish some fundamentals in our heart: What God says through his word is what he means, and he will act on it. Knowing and taking God at his word becomes a rock-solid foundation.

When confronted by situations that are horribly challenging, and especially when you are doing what God told you to do, and you may have your children in tow who are affected, has a cost. But Eileen said that she determined she would push through in obedience to God's voice regardless of the circumstance. Believing the word of God and trusting him implicitly through our obedience is the rock-solid foundation.

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Romans 10:17

Eileen stressed that no faith is built in us until we have heard the word and we have acted on it. Many people hesitate at the doing part. Regardless of if we have children, when it's painful, when we do not understand, we must trust God and act on his word. Eileen recounts the story of being on a boat to India, 27 weeks pregnant and going into labour. The doctor was marvellous and inventive in making an incubator out of plastic sheets and her son was born alive and well.

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

James 2:17

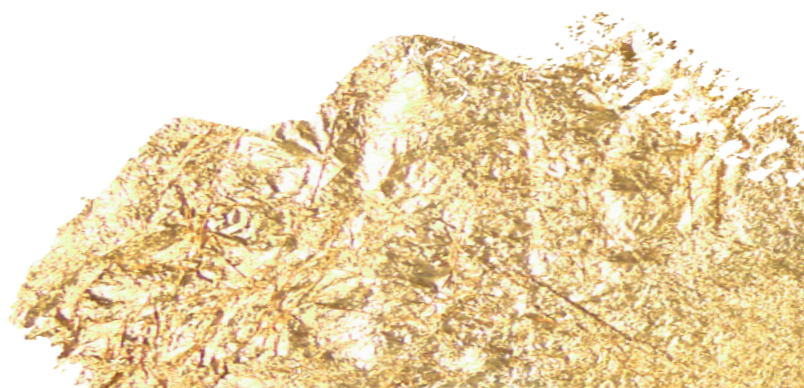
Q/ When did you last feel God prompt you and did you act on it?

Q/ Share situations of being promptly obedient to God and the outcome of that.

Q/ What scripture has got you through a challenging circumstance?

Like Eileen, we can choose to draw a line in the sand and live a life of faith and prompt obedience. Rachel said of her mother, that she set her eyes with faith, and set her life with sacrifice, and lived it out. This influenced Rachel as she endeavoured to live the same life and in obedience to God's call, and took her children to Africa on mission. Nicola in turn lives a life of mission. It is challenging, but on the other side of our obedience we get to see how faithful God is.

Will you get out of the boat when it does not make sense?



COUNTERCULTURAL

Nicola stated that our children are growing up in a very complex counterculture to the Kingdom of God. She asks the question of how we live according to the word of God in such an opposing culture.

We will conclude this study with Rachel's powerful exhortation to this question:

We have a privilege of the Jesus life that we are called to live, that has a different story line from our culture. Our life story is a life of contrast - light in the dark place! We have an upside-down life that does not always make sense to others, but it is courageous. People try to label Christians as cowards - life with a crutch - that we are feeble and weak.....

BUT READ OUR STORY!!

We have boundaries and we say no when we know we are crossing our conscience, moral or biblical line - we can't fudge it with a maybe! We go in the opposite attitude. When someone hates us, we look to be kind. When someone takes from us, even steals, we try to find ways to be generous. We bless and do not curse!

A Jesus story life is a decision to live a laid down life, but we are not a walk over. We deny ourselves - our personal preferences, our random likes, to choose the Jesus way. It is not always convenient, but it is satisfying! This is a radical life and so exciting for every generation. In our story we don't just merge with our culture, we stand out - head and shoulders tall - and we are the HISTORY MAKERS - we write the best stories of adventure.

We are JESUS people!

Q/ What statement within that exhortation stood out to you the most?

Q/ Have you had people question your Christian beliefs as fantasy or feeble?

Q/ Have you ever found it hard to stand up for your faith when the environment you found yourself was opposed to your beliefs?

PRAYER

Thank Jesus that you made the ultimate sacrifice for me, so today I am free and redeemed. I commit to surrendering my will and my way. I choose the God adventure of getting out the boat and following you with great abandon. I know I can never out give you and I am proud to be your child. I will never miss an opportunity to reflex you in the way I live and love people.

Amen