



SISTERHOOD

Lounge Room

From our lounge room to yours!

Episode 5 | Generations
Handout Week 1

Welcome back to the Sisterhood Lounge Room. In this month's episode Nicola is joined on the couch by her mother, Rachel and her grandmother, Eileen, who talk on the rich and important topic of generations.

As you gather in your lounge room, we have highlighted the key scriptures from this episode, as well as a few questions you can use to continue the conversation...enjoy.

Nicola explains that generations are woven throughout the bible and God works through them, and yet we can often and easily negate the power of generations.

Read Psalm 78:4-7.

Not only do we learn and grow from the generation before us, but we can also find and maintain our personal hope in God through them.

Nicola refers to Judges 2:10 as one of the saddest scriptures in the bible:

After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.

Keep two things in mind when doing this study: First, that without clear intention on our part, we may miss the opportunity to instruct and inspire the next generation in the importance and beauty of a relationship with God. Second, that a metaphor often used in the New Testament for church is family. Throughout this study we can apply our learning and intentions to both our natural family and our church family. This subject matters to God. Lets' dive in...

JESUS LOVES ME, YES I KNOW.

Nicola asked her grandmother, Eileen, who is a first-generation Christian, how she got saved. Eileen shared a touching testimony of remembering as a child in Sunday school singing 'Jesus loves me, yes I know,' and just grew up knowing this to be true and wanting to follow God. In adulthood, her husband and herself faced a tragedy of a lost child together. Her husband started reading the bible and confessed out loud, much to Eileen's alarm, that 'it was going to be all or nothing!' A friend prayed for him as he knelt to receive Jesus and when he stood up, Eileen said she did not recognise him. The friend offered to pray for her too, but she retorted that she already believed in Jesus. His response was that she needed to receive Jesus. She had an internal battle as she sensed God say: I want your will. She surrendered and left totally transformed, never ever to be the same again.

Q/ Share you journey of meeting Jesus. Do you come from a Christian background?

Q/ Eileen's husband had the revelation that the gospel is 'everything or nothing', how should this revelation change the way we live?

Q/ Surrendering our will can be a challenge, what's one example where you have had to lay down your will or way for God's?

Nicola asked how her grandmother and mother have both kept cultivating passion for Jesus throughout the years, and both refer to reading the bible diligently in all seasons. Eileen said that intentional routines are helpful, for example she reads through the whole bible every year and uses more than one translation to keep it fresh. Rachel helpfully adds that in busy seasons even listening to the bible is a faster and easier method.

Q/ Do you prioritise the word of God? Different methods work for different people and perhaps it's time you set or freshen up your routine. Share ways you make the word of God a priority in your life.

Q/ We all can have dry seasons of our lives, what do you do when your heart has grown cold or your passion has waned for the things of God?

Q/ Discuss how else you may cultivate passion in your relationship with the Lord.

Nicola said that it would be easy to think that by simply being raised in a Christian environment makes you a Christian, as if by osmosis. She asked her mum how her relationship with Jesus became personal for her. Rachel said that because Jesus was so familiar in her upbringing it led to questioning whether her decision was authentic, or if she was doing it right. She said that deep memories are often spiritual ones. She relayed that when she was four years old, she remembered lying on a bed and asking Jesus to come into her life and forgive her sins. That was authentic. She recalled other memories such as hearing a message on the Holy Spirit as a ten-year-old, which stirred desire in her, and resulted in waking up in the middle of the night singing to God (and waking up her mother too!) Memories of salvation and memories of encounters helped her know it was authentic. She added that just because it may be familiar does not mean it is not precious.

Q/ Share some memories or encounters of how your relationship with Jesus became personal to you.

Q/ What are some of the landmarks in your life with God that have shaped you?

WALKING OUT SALVATION

Rachel mentioned that an incredible benefit of growing up in a generation that loves Jesus is that you have an automatic and intuitive understanding of the two dimensions of the supernatural and the natural. You know there is the Jesus life.

Q/ Discuss other benefits of growing up in a Christian family

Q/ How can we make Jesus the centre of our homes and lives, where people are attracted by the way we live and not turned off by it?

Rachel reminded those of us of who are mothers to steward our time with our children and help them remember the salvation and encounter memories, and to answer all their questions with deep integrity and faith. And she powerfully concluded that they moved their children's hearts with what was in their own hearts as they lived out their missionary calling in Africa. They intentionally invested financially in their spiritual journey by taking the children on various mission trips to widen their worldview and kingdom perspective. As parents or mature believers within the church, we have a responsibility to help others find God's will for their life and an authentic relationship with him.

Q/ How can we help others on their journey with God?

Q/ Who has been someone who has inspired you in your walk with Jesus?

Nicola asked how a first-generation believer may navigate their unbelieving family. Grandmother Eileen's three sisters all came to the Lord quickly, but she prayed for her father for 32 years and he finally surrendered to Jesus shortly before his death.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9

Rachel named first generation Christians as the turning generation. She said that tensions may be felt even before you open your mouth because of the transforming impact salvation has on every area of your life and your family. Rachel spoke of learning the grace of being a turning generation, and to find areas where you can show goodness, kindness, and grace as opposed to forcing ideas about Jesus onto people. She reminds us that everyone has a 'hook' to look for that draws them to God and that often those who fight the hardest surrender first and then they turn the rest of their family around.

Q/ Discuss some of the tension and struggle that comes from being a first generation Christian and literally turning a whole generation flow.

Q/Share where you might have you grown weary in believing for salvation for your loved ones? How can you renew your faith again?

FINAL THOUGHT

Eileen prayed for 32 years for her father to surrender his life to Jesus and she did not grow weary. End tonight by praying that God will give you an insatiable hunger for his word and that you will grow in wisdom and revelation. Pray to grow in the grace of demonstrating God's love in a way that makes others thirst for him and long to follow him. And pray for your loved ones who do not know him yet.

