

# SISTERHOOD LOUNGE ROOM

*From our lounge room to yours*

## **Christian Women in Leadership Part 2 (Leadership Revelations)**

Loved part one of this month's conversation? Well so did we! In part two Julie, Emma, Mary, and Rose discuss Christian women leadership with a focus on leadership revelations. Below we have highlighted the key scriptures, thoughts shared, as well as a few questions you can use in discussion with your group, or in your personal devotion ... enjoy.

Julie started this episode by recapping that in the three stories shared in part 1, all said yes to the God call without been given any detail, and all have had phenomenal impact in response to their obedient faith. Julie asked the ladies to share some of the leadership revelations they had on their journey.

*"Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray."*  
Mark 1:35

Emma shared her leadership revelation with a memory of attending a conference in 2012. Her biggest take away from listening to experienced greatly successful leaders was how they all emphasised the importance of daily time in prayer and devotion to God. Jesus himself exemplified this. She was struck by the thought that if she isn't leading herself well, and hearing from God, how could she lead her organisation well.

She has realised that it is a false economy to skimp on time with God when she is busy and

notices the negative knock-on effects when she does.

**Q - How is your daily habit of spending time with God going?**

**Q - If leading yourself well is the route to leading others better, what do you need to change in leading yourself right now?**

**Q - What false economy experiences and knock on effects have you seen in your life that you can learn from and not repeat?**

*"When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses! Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.'" Exodus 3:4*


Mary shared that Moses is one of her most relatable characters in the bible. He questions God multiple times, and he expresses fear and reluctance in his calling. Mary relates to how Moses questioned God about his own ability to do the assignment. God simply responds to Moses that He will be with him. Mary said that we may not always understand the "why" of God's call on our life, but just like Moses, if God calls us, he will be with us and provide the required ability and authority. Mary reminds us that God can use anything and anyone for His glory and what he calls for, he provides for.

**Q - How does Moses reluctant journey into leading inspire you?**


**Q - Do you wrestle with God when prompted to take an action? How might you respond with prompt obedience in the future?**

**Q - What has been your Moses experience where you have felt ill equipped for the task ahead, but you have relied on God's authority given to you?**

Emma shared how important it is to be yourself. In her younger years, her identity and self-worth were tied up in her academic achievement and obedience to follow the rules. As she started




encouraging other women in their identities, God showed her that she too is loved for who she is, not what she does. Emma realised that God was using her as she was - who he had created her to be, not in spite of it! She reminded us too that not everyone will be pleased when you step into God's purposes and start to succeed, but just to keep walking with God and realise that you cannot control people's reactions.



Julie invited Rose to talk on the fear of rejection and failure. Rose reminds us that we all experience rejection and that we need to come to terms with the word "no". Rose views the "no's" as a filtering system that remove the wrong directions out of her journey, and aid her into getting to the right destination. Rose reminded us that part of stepping into new territory and trying new things also means that failure will come. Rose encouraged us to not fear failure and allow it to immobilise us but rather to be terrified of regret and giving up.

Rose continued to say failure opens our eyes to our gifting and resilience grows in us.




**Q - How do you relate to Emma's encouragement of the importance of being yourself?**

**Q - How can we guard our hearts and respond in a godly manner when people are not pleased about our success?**


**Q - Does seeing the "no's" as God's filtering system strengthen your peace and trust?**

*"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him."*

Matthew 14:27-31




Julie asked Mary to share a personal accomplishment. Mary said that life on the outside looks almost the same, but personal and spiritual growth have been her greatest gains.



Mary relates to Peter stepping out of the boat at Jesus bid him to come, and when he faltered, Jesus reached out His hand to catch him. She said that throughout her leadership journey, Jesus has reached out His hand to steady her in her faltering, and that our primary responsibility is to be willing to step out the boat.

*"Elisha replied to her, 'How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?' 'Your servant has nothing there at all,' she said, 'except a small jar of olive oil.'"*  
2 Kings 4:2

Rose shared that all her current success has come through her kitchen sink experience expressed in part 1, where God asked her in her emptied state what was in her hand, very much like Elisha's question to the widow. For Rose it was her unfinished novel. Her book has opened many doors, and most recently Hollywood contacted Rose about producing her books into a television series. From the kitchen sink to Hollywood! Only God can script that! Rose expressed that anything could change as God both gives and takes away as is good for us. She emphasised the importance of remaining grounded in God through both the highs and the inevitable lows, and living for an audience of one with the focus to be a good and faithful servant - faithful in every season with what is in our hands.



**Q - What does personal accomplishment look like for you?**

**Q - Rose was first emptied and then filled by God. How does her story help you appreciate the importance of the challenging and successful seasons?**



## **Q - Who is your audience?**

Julie asked Mary Rose, Emma three final quick questions:

To Mary she asked: "What would you say to your younger self?" Mary said that she wouldn't say anything as her younger self was doing the best she could with what she had, and her experiences have led her to where she is now.

To Emma Julie asked: "What do you still dream of doing?" Emma replied that she wants to write down every experience where she has seen God miraculously provide and move, in a book one day.

To Rose Julie asked: "What will your 70-year-old-self thank you for doing now?" Rose said her 70-year-old self would thank her for not getting her affirmation from her employer, or any other person or place, and for remembering that credit for her achievements and creativity belong to God alone.

**Q - What would you say to your younger self?**

**Q - What are you still dreaming of?**

**Q - What would you like your 70-year-old self to thank you for doing now?**

Julie concluded this session by praying for every woman participating in this study.

### **Prayer:**

Thank you, God, that you know the dreams and the fears of our individual hearts, thank you for choosing us to be your representatives and for the wonderful purposes and plans contained therein. Fill us with divine enablement and courage to respond in obedience to your voice, to remember who and whose we are, and to excel in your mission on this earth, in all things bringing glory to you.

Amen