

Can I Sit With You?
At The Table Pt. 2
Pastor Eric Nelson

Community Group Questions:

1. What's one of your favorite meals you've ever had at a table—and who were you with?
2. Take turns reading Exodus 18:13–23 out loud. What stands out to you about Jethro's role in Moses' life? Why do you think Moses was willing to listen and change after that conversation?
3. Everyone needs a "Jethro" or an "Elizabeth"—someone who can encourage, guide, or even lovingly correct us. Who has played that role in your life, and how did God use them to shape you?
4. Read Titus 2:1-8. This passage shows older men and women intentionally investing in younger believers. Why is this important? What might it look like for you to step into that role right now—either receiving wisdom or giving it away?
5. Men's and Women's ministry creates intentional "tables" where people can be vulnerable and grow. What might be keeping you (or others) from pulling up a chair at one of those tables?

Not all tables are the **SAME**.

ENVIRONMENTS are shaped for specific purposes.

Exodus 18:5-9 *Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, together with Moses' sons and wife, came to him in the wilderness, where he was camped near the mountain of God. 6 Jethro had sent word to him, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons." 7 So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent. 8 Moses told his father-in-law about everything the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the LORD had saved them. 9 Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the LORD had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians.*

Exodus 18:14-16 *When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?" 15 Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. 16 Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions."*

Exodus 18:17-23 *Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. 18 You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it*

alone. 19 Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. 20 Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. 21 But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 22 Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. 23 If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.” 24 Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. 25 He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 26 They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves. 27 Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.

Luke 1:39-56 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, **40** where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! **43** But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **45** Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"...**56** Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

EVERYONE needs a Jethro and/or a Mary.

Titus 2:1-8 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. **2** Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. **3** Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. **4** Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, **5** to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. **6** Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. **7** In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness **8** and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

All-female spaces enable women to speak freely and to dialogue without fear of interruption or misperception. By freeing women up to contribute, these spaces enhance women's opportunities to learn, share, and lead in the church. Jen Wilkin

Masculinity is bestowed. A boy learns who he is and what he's got from a man, or the company of men. John Eldridge

God uses **SPECIFIC** environments to shape **SPECIFIC** kinds of growth.

