



THIS IS US, PART 4 B4: A MULTI-GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY OF FAITH

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BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"Those of the
next generation
are not replacements.
They are reinforcements."
-Pastor Alex Lessler*

MAIN:

"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds. They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness." (Psalm 145:4-7)

"The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." (1 Samuel 16:1, 4-7, 10-12)

"When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me, your throne will be established forever." (2 Samuel 7:12-16)

Supportive:

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,

*did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing*

*by taking the very nature[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

*And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself*

*by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2: 5-11)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The Church is always one generation away from extinction. The responsibility of every generation is to raise up the next. We need each other. King David did not have that. His natural father shoved him aside. His father-in-law, Saul, looked at David as a rival and tried to kill him. Even so, David did better with Solomon. Israel's two greatest kings had their problems. David was not a perfect father, but he took God at his word (2 Samuel 7) that Solomon would do great things, greater even than David. The Temple was not known as "David's Temple", but as "Solomon's Temple." Even so, David did the practical work to lay the groundwork for Solomon's reign, and one of Israel's crowning achievements.

Unlike Saul, David did not see Solomon and his generation as replacements, but as reinforcements. Perhaps David drew on his own experiences as an emerging leader when, for example, he rejected Saul's armor. Or when Nathan told him, "No." And David discovered that he could not build the temple. David's experiences as a growing leader prepared him to pass the baton. He understood that the wisdom of his generation needed to be contextualized for the next generation by a younger leader. Solomon's desire to build the kingdom would express differently than David's—from a portable tent to a permanent stone structure. God hadn't changed, but the expression of worshipping him had. These are among the lessons from the lives of David and Solomon that can help guide our church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What was your high/low for this past week (or since the group last met)?
What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?
2. Last time we met, we talked about [whatever you talked about]. Has anyone had a chance to put that lesson into practice? Has it has an impact on your life in any way?
3. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?
Why was it significant to you?
4. What is one thing that you notice about your interactions with another generation, whether older or younger?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What does it mean for a generation to commend the works of God among them to the one that follows them? Why is there joy in that, or why not?
2. Why do you think Samuel mourns for Saul? Why does God correct him?
3. What was it about Eliab that captivated Samuel's attention? What assumptions was Samuel making about the next generation of leaders?
4. Why do you think Samuel reacted as he did when God rejected Eliab?
How did God's explanation play into that?
5. As his reign was drawing to a close, how do you think David was comforted by God's promises?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What do you think separates generations today?
 2. How do you relate to people of a different generation? How do their assumptions about you impact that relationship?
- cont.,

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**

3. In David's time, it was typical for a younger generation to differ to the older. Is that still the case? Why or why not?
4. Where do you see the kind of leadership that Samuel exhibits in an older generation? Be specific if possible and celebrate them by name and deed. Likewise, where do you see the qualities of a David in a younger generation?
5. What part does humility play in the relationship between generations?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What assumptions do you make about other generations?
2. What frustration(s) do you experience when you think about relating to someone of a different generation?
3. Have you ever had a moment like Samuel experienced where you clearly felt God's leading to sponsor and encourage a young leader? If not, do you think God is silent, or could you listen better?
4. Have you ever had a David moment where a "Samuel" "anointed" you, not literally, but they supported you?
5. If you have past relationships like David, who did not have good father models, how will you do what he did preparing a way for a "Solomon"?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. If you're part of a younger generation, what do you wish you could say to the generation before you? What do you need from them? If you're part of an older generation, what do you wish you could say to the generation that follows you? What do you need from them?
2. Would you go and have that conversation with someone you love and trust?