

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

### MAY 13, 2018

*This is a guide to help start a conversation about this week's message. Feel free to pick, choose, re-order and adapt as you see fit. You know your group best and can facilitate their experience by modifying as necessary.*

#### ICE-BREAKERS

1. Appreciating that we've all had different upbringings and different experiences (both positive and challenging) with our parents, what was Mother's Day like for you growing up? What was expected? What was positive? What was challenging?
2. When you hear the phrase "church leader" what comes to mind? Who comes to mind? What messages did you perceive about women as "church leaders" in your upbringing?
3. Watch [Ellen Duffield's inspiring and informative book trailer](#) as a refresher and on-ramp into the conversation.

#### REVIEW

1. You may want to watch this week's message with your group as a refresher. Or, try picking a spot with 10-15 minutes to go to review the main application(s). Messages are found at [southridgechurch.ca/messages](http://southridgechurch.ca/messages).
2. Feel free to try one or two of these... What did you hear in this week's message? What ideas stood out? What did you agree with? Disagree with? What questions came to mind? How did it make you feel?

#### REFLECT

1. What was most surprising, challenging and encouraging in this week's service? Discuss all three.
2. Have you ever considered "the maternal heart of God?" What do you think of the idea of God as "Mother?"
3. Read the following scriptures together: [Matthew 23:37](#), [Isaiah 42:14](#) and [Isaiah 66:13](#). What catches your attention in these verses? Can you think of a time when you've personally experienced these maternal attributes of God? Share about ways you've seen these characteristics of God revealed.

#### RESPOND

1. What invitation do you sense after hearing this week's panel discussion? Where is God calling you to step into your identity with leadership and influence? How can you be more BRAVE?
2. Beyond the programs that were highlighted, what can we each do personally or as Life Groups to help advance the cause of female empowerment and leadership development at Southridge?
3. For a next step of deeper reflection, consider exploring Ellen Duffield's "[Women's Pathway Exercise](#)" either individually, as a Life Group or with a few trusted friends.

