

THRIVE COLLECTIVE

Saturday, April 22, 2023



ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

WOMEN

Thrive Collective - absc.org/women

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Growing Together as Arkansas Baptists Women!

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Hello & Welcome! We are so excited about our 2023 theme of Growing Together! This day has been planned with you as women's ministry leaders in mind and we've been praying and anticipating a special time together!

Schedule for the Day

9:30 - 10:00	Doors Open - Registration & Mingle
10:00	Welcome & Introduction
10:10 - 11:10	Creating Ministry Environments for Women to Thrive - Lori McDaniel My Leadership Story - Traci Smith
11:10 - 11:40	Table Conversations
11:40 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 - 1:15	Creating Pathways for Young Leaders to Thrive - Shari Edwards My Leadership Story - Emily Watson
1:15 - 1:45	Table Conversations
1:45 - 2:00	Break
2:00 - 3:00	Conversations & Practical Helps for Women's Ministries to Thrive

To thrive means "to grow vigorously; to flourish"
It is our hope that God will move in the hearts and lives of women
as we seek to grow, to flourish, and to thrive in His purpose and for His glory!

*"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made
the Lord their hope and confidence.
They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water."
Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Next Gen Leaders: Creating Pathways for Young Leaders to Thrive

Cultivate: “to come to have gradually; to help the growth or development of; to look after or assist the growth of by labor and care”

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

As women who lead in various capacities in ministry and church settings, what does it mean for us to Cultivate Next Gen Leaders? Here are some practical steps toward developing the young leaders in our circles of influence.

C-are about those who are coming up behind us. Look around and notice someone who is in a younger season—pay attention and comment on a skill or gift you see in them.

U-nderstand their perspective. (Example of climbing a tree)

L-isten to their concerns. Give them a safe space to share real concerns.

T-ake time to get to know them. Let them know they have value.

I-deas – they have great ones! Seek them out and ask for their input.

V-alue Younger Leaders. They are the future and actually the “now” of leadership. Lean into their creativity and passion!

A-sk Questions. Start a dialogue to learn from one another. (See attached list of 10 questions to work through with a group of leaders of all ages)

T-each & Train. Help younger leaders learn about their spiritual gifts and then find ways to help them put those gifts to use. Teach them not only God’s word, but teach them leadership principles. Work to create leadership pathways.

E-xpect Growth. As we continue to tend and nurture young leaders as they step into leadership roles, we should encourage them as we see positive leadership qualities emerge.

“But the seed in the good ground, these are the ones who, having heard the Word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it and by enduring, produce fruit.”

Luke 8:15

Creating Pathways for Young Leaders to Thrive

Practical Suggestions:

Older Leaders:

- Be proactive about intentionally providing opportunities for younger leaders to apprentice, to shadow, to serve alongside.
- Understand the importance of developing emotionally healthy leaders. Ask the deeper heart questions.
- Pay attention to our own personal leadership and spiritual development. Before we can lead others well we need to develop ourselves.
- Create pathways for younger leaders to discover and develop spiritual gifts and leadership skills.

Younger Leaders:

- Seek out older women who are leading and modeling healthy leadership. Ask to meet with them and get to know their leadership journey.
- Be patient - understand that leadership is seasonal and takes time to grow and develop. Serve and grow where you are and be ready to step into the next thing!
- Study women in scripture God used to accomplish His kingdom purposes. Make a list of spiritual and leadership qualities they exhibit. (See attached list)

Helpful Scriptures on Cultivating Next Gen Leaders:

"But commission Joshua and encourage and strengthen him, for he will cross over ahead of the people and enable them to inherit this land that you will see."
Deuteronomy 3:28:

"Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him." Deuteronomy 34:9

"Then David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He won't leave you or abandon you" 1 Chronicles 28:20

"I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and now, I am convinced, is in you also. Therefore, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment."
2 Timothy 1:5-7

Creating Pathways for Young Leaders to Thrive

Start the Conversation: Questions to Work Through Together

Sometimes, we just need a little help to get the conversation between generations going. Gather some women of various ages and in different seasons of life and work through these questions together.

1. As a young leader, what is something that you wish you'd been more prepared for?
2. How do you think older leaders can benefit from younger leaders? How can younger leaders benefit from older leaders? What does each generation have to offer - to bring to the table?
3. As women who serve in various capacities of leadership, what are ways in which we can help them develop confident leadership skills in whatever leadership setting they find themselves?
4. What are some barriers that exist that contribute to the cycle of us not cultivating leaders in the next generation - some barriers we may not see?
5. What are some assumptions that we make - on both sides of the coin - about the other generation of leaders? What are some assumptions that we make as younger leaders about older leaders? Or assumptions we make as older leaders about younger leaders? And how can we overcome or push past these assumptions?
6. What advice would you give your younger leadership self?
7. What's something you wish older leaders understood or knew about younger leaders?
8. What's something you wish younger leaders understood or knew about older leaders?
9. What are some ways can we be more intentional about developing leadership skills in high school and college young women?
10. What are some things we can actively do as older leaders to help create leadership pathways for younger leaders?
11. What are 3 life/leadership marker moments where someone spoke into your life? How did God use that to encourage and motivate you?

Take the first step toward connecting with a woman who is in a different generation than you and watch God bridge your hearts in ministry!

"In the same way, older women ... are to teach what is good, so that they may encourage the young women ..."

Titus 2:3-4



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