

Before You Exit, Ensure You're in the Right Seat

by Jelani Greenidge, p. 34

Through new experiences as an associate pastor, Jelani Greenidge gains firsthand insights on the role of women in ministry.

1. Jelani Greenidge discovers that he has much to learn when he takes on a new role as associate pastor. When have you changed positions, either at work or in a volunteer setting, and scrambled to catch up on the new expectations?
2. Through listening and watching pastor Mary Putera, Greenidge has found a “treasure trove of insights.” Who do you find yourself watching and learning from most often? What is something you have learned from them recently?
3. Greenidge describes the theory of intersectionality as layers of advantages and disadvantages operating simultaneously. This plays out in his ministry when people may not accept him as a pastor because he is black but may be more prone to accept him because he is male. What theories of intersectionality can you name in your own life?
4. In his new role serving with a senior pastor who is a woman, Greenidge says he has seen sexism for what it is in fresh ways. In what areas of your life do you see or experience sexism?
5. What “seats of leadership” are filled by women in your church? Are you aware of any challenges that they face?