



Connect Study 25

Pilate's wife: Influential

'While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."' (Matthew 27:19, NIV)

This woman, married to Pilate, the Roman governor, had high social status and would have been rich and well-educated. However her lasting story does not come from her power or status but because she used her influence for a purpose. When she heard God's voice in a dream, she spoke up.

Discuss the following questions on true influence:

- Influence comes from heaven, not earth

Read Psalm 75:6,7. It is God who gives us true influence but where else can we be tempted to look for our influence at times?

If true influence comes from God is there anything that stops you from listening to him?

- Your greatest influence is in your own home

Read Proverbs 31:26 and 28,29. Just as the Proverbs 31 woman influenced her household so Pilate's wife's primary influence was on her husband rather than on the empire.

Who would you say is in your greatest sphere of influence and how are you stewarding it? Is there anyone's ear that only you have?

- Influence is for good, not for gain

Read Romans 15:1-2. Share an experience when you have gained personally through another person's influence on your life.

Share a time when you used your influence for good.

- Influence is driven by conviction

Read Matthew 27:19. Why was Pilate's wife using her influence? What was her conviction about Jesus?

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Isaiah 61:1-3. What is the purpose of our influence?

Prayer: Pray together that you would find ways and have the courage to use your influence for the benefit of others.

Nation Builders

At the start of the year we have the opportunity as Connect Group to set the Faith Goal for what we are believing to give towards Nation Builders. Nation Builders is the Missions Giving of Hillsong Church. Together as Connect Groups we are believing for UNUSUAL things to happen. Take the time during your next meeting to inspire your group to set a Faith Goal for 2015, and let's believe together for our Nation Builders to spark UNUSUAL miracles!

PASTORAL CARE

We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people in your group who may be going through a tough time.

Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500 or Newcastle 02 4927 1888 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges