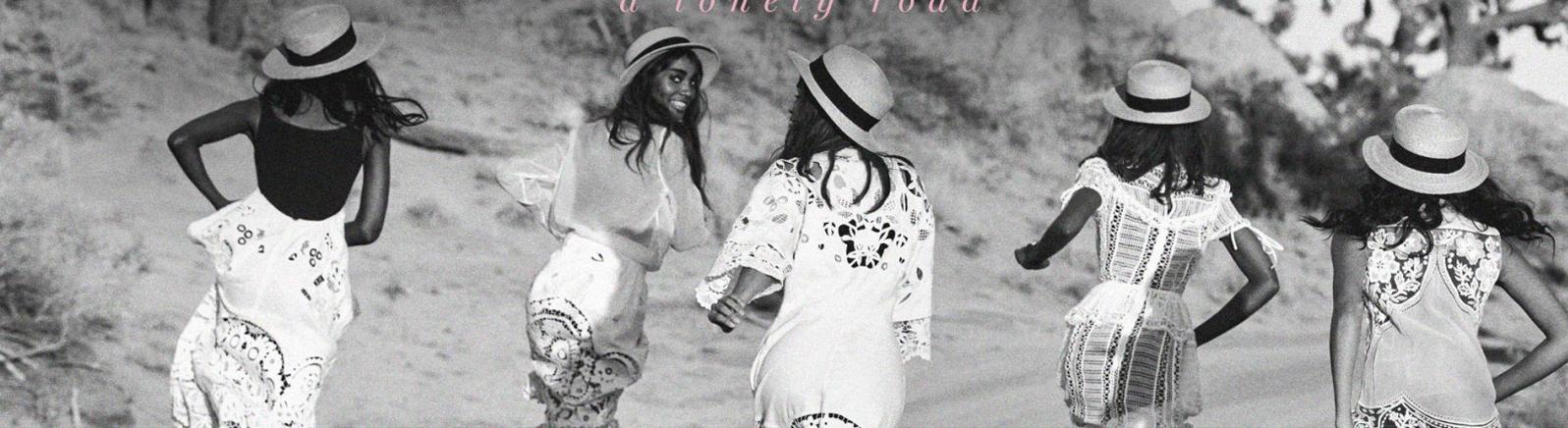


LIFE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE
a lonely road



SISTERHOOD CONNECT STUDY 5

DOORWAYS, HALLWAYS, GATEWAYS

'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.' (Hebrews 11:1, NIV)

In 2 Kings 4:8-37 we read about the Shunammite woman who made room in her house and her life for the prophet Elisha. We do not know her name but we know her story. Because she had shown honour to his prophet God gave her a longed-for child but then the child died. Her response to that tragedy sowed a seed for her future and is a great example for us.

Consider the following questions in relation to your own life:

1) Doorways

- Read 2 Kings 4:15,16. The woman wanted a child but did not want to be disappointed again. What dreams have you hidden because you have waited so long for them to be fulfilled? Why is it sometimes so hard to keep on hoping and believing?
- Read Mark 5:25-29. What do you think this woman was going through emotionally? How can you personally relate to her story?
- Share a time when, like these two women, you saw God break through into your situation.
- Read Hebrews 6:19. What does this verse tell you about hope in God?

2) Hallways

- Read 2 Kings 4:18-22. When her son died his mother put his body Elisha's room where she had first received the promise and set out without discussion with anyone else. What can you learn from this in terms of how to respond when your dream seems to have died?
- Read Hebrews 11:1. We often tend to magnify our problems. Faith and fear function in the same way: they claim something which is not seen. How can you build faith in your life?



3) Gateways

- Read 2 Kings 4: 32-37 and 8:1-6. How did the seed of the sorrow of 2 Kings 4:18 turn into fruit in 2 Kings 8:6?
- Share experiences when you have seen God's faithfulness. What have you learned in these situations for your future challenges?

Action: Find Scriptures that build up faith in your life and remind you of God's faithfulness. Let them remind you of God's presence in your life over the coming weeks!

Pray: Pray for each other and invite God into the midst of your dreams, brokenness and disappointment!

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, surgeries.

