



STUDY 10

The Blessing of Receptivity

Read: Mark 4:23-25, Mark 6:3-5, Luke 19:1-10

How easy it is to be listening but not really hearing; or hearing but not connecting. We can miss out on so much because we lack receptivity. God given opportunities can come our way and we can be living oblivious because we don't live our lives in an open, receptive way. On the other hand, if we are able to receive, then we are open to learn, grow and stretch. When we live our lives in a receptive way, we can change the atmosphere - and set the spiritual tone - of our lives, our homes and our church, and thereby draw out the best in others. . It will draw out the best in others. Many times by just having a receptive spirit, you get the best of the best of the best. You get the cream of the crop because you are receptive.

Jesus tells us that the measure we use is the same measure that will be measured back to us. So if we hear but don't listen, then we are setting (and limiting) the measure that will come back to us. The atmosphere of our homes, offices, relationships, friendships and spiritual life all depend on our readiness and desire to be stimulated, to learn, to grow, and to stretch. We need to live our lives in an environment of anticipation, expectation, faith and receptivity where the measure we use is actually bringing the measure that God intends into our life

However, as the story of Jesus being poorly received in His home town illustrates, the closer we get to "home", the more we have to decide that we are going to fight against the potential to live our lives unaware and familiar, instead of in an anticipatory, expectant and hungry way.

CONNECTION AND ACTION Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

- Q:** What have been some of the key ways your life has grown or moved forward this year?
- Q:** Do you ever find yourself becoming "familiar" and limiting your openness to all that God has for you? What produces that and how do you change it?
- Q:** Think of a time when you **were not** open or receptive to God. And think of a time when you **were**. Describe the difference in the effect on the areas of your life, such as the atmosphere of your home or your work?
- Q:** What ways have you found to stay open and receptive? (**Leaders' Note:** maybe people need to challenge themselves in certain areas; or simply make some adjustments; or open themselves up to accountability with certain people who will challenge them.)
- Q:** What has God been saying to you, stirring in you or challenging you about as we head into our Heart for the House season and Hillsong conference?
- Q:** How has your heart, expectation and involvement in these grown since last year?

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Heart for the House – We all have a part to play! Pick up your countdown calendar from church and join with us in prayer for this powerful season.
- Hillsong Conference is on our doorstep! Please pray together that lives are impacted and the cause of Christ is empowered throughout the earth. The three ways to be involved are: Registering, register your kids or volunteer! Check out hillsongconference.com

More
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the
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I LOVE MY CONNECT

BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these questions and scriptures to help believers develop a Biblical worldview.

Read Matthew 12:1-14 and the various stories in Luke 18

Jesus was received differently by the various people groups in the New Testament.

Q: Who were they? What were their responses and why did they respond the way that they did?

Read Acts 17:4-5, 11-13, 32-34

The **Apostle Paul** also met with various responses.

Q: What are the various responses to the preaching of the gospel in Thessalonica, Berea and Athens?

Read 2 Corinthians 8-9

The **Apostle Paul** is stirring up the Corinthians to give towards an offering for the poor saints in Jerusalem.

Q: In light of our coming Heart for the House offering, what principles and encouragements can you glean from these two chapters that can motivate and guide you and others as you participate.

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

Q: As leaders, how do you stay fresh, open and receptive to God?

Q: Do you have an intentional approach to growth and development as a person and as a leader? Describe it?

Q: What are you reading, listening to or learning from at the moment?

Q: What do you do to help others on your sphere of influence to stay open and receptive?

Q: Hillsong Conference is just around the corner. How has your leadership grown over the years through your involvement in Conference?

Check Up

Check in with leaders in your group on how they're preparing their Connect Group for the Heart for the House offering.

PRAY TOGETHER

- Heart for The House Offering
- Hillsong Conference

PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside of people in your group who may be going through a tough time
- Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353 or Brisbane 07 3422 8500 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

NATION BUILDERS – Causes we are supporting through Nation Builders:

1. **Church Planting** – Supporting a new generation of dynamic leaders to plant & build churches that will serve communities, influence cities and ultimately impact nations.
Including: Amsterdam, Japan, Moscow, Paris, Stockholm, Copenhagen and Hillsong Germany.
 2. **Gospel Missions** – Supporting missions locally & others that are furthering the Gospel all around the world.
Including: Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Hillsong TV and overseas workers in SE Asia.
- At Vision Sunday 2012 Pastor Brian announced that Thomas & Katherine Hansen will be heading to Denmark to start Hillsong Church COPENHAGEN. They are looking to relocate to Copenhagen at the start of September. Please pray for Thomas and Kat, for people to join as team members and for favour and guidance.

