



# I LOVE MY CONNECT

## STUDY 12

### Jesus – The foundation of your life

#### Psalm 118, Isaiah 28

Since ancient times, a cornerstone has been vitally important in the construction of a building. This stone is laid first and it determines the positioning and layout of the rest of the structure. Keystones on the other hand are near the top and hold the other pieces in place. In either case they are an important piece and overall integrity and foundation of the building. Talking about Jesus, Psalm 118:22 tells us that the stone that was rejected has become the cornerstone. In Isaiah 28:16 it tell us that this precious cornerstone, again talking about Jesus, is a sure foundation and there is no need to panic for those who rely on it.

Imagine living in a tall building. If the cornerstone was made of a material that was weaker than the rest of the structure or not placed correctly, the whole building would be compromised! How comfortable would you be to set up you life inside that building and trust your life to be safe when something places pressure on that foundation? We can sometimes find ourselves leaning on different foundations at different points in our life. Some “cornerstones” look very attractive and stable and without even realising it, we have moved into a new building with a different cornerstone. Ultimately, these foundations will lead to disappointment and disillusionment.

Jesus is the only way to salvation and fellowship with God. We were totally unable to save ourselves our sin separating us from God. Through His work on the cross, Jesus used Himself as the cornerstone, the sure foundation upon which our relationship and connection back to our Creator could be made. Only Jesus being the Son of God, had the power to do this for us He is the foundation upon which we can build a life with a solid assurance and a confidence for the future. We can live a life free of fear and worry and with a comfort that comes from the unsurpassed love of God. Christ alone is the cornerstone for every part of our life.

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

- Q:** We've all seen buildings being built. What lessons about foundations for life can we learn from buildings?
- Q:** “My hope is build on nothing less” – Discuss some of the cornerstones that people rely on other than Jesus. What is the danger of these foundations?
- Q:** What are some of the cornerstones you've built your life on in the past?
- Q:** What benefits have you experiences from having Christ as you cornerstone?
- Q:** How would you explain to someone who wasn't a follower of Jesus why they needed to make Him their cornerstone?
- Q:** Share a time when you moved you reliance from some false cornerstone to Jesus. How did that happen? What result did it have in your life?

#### **HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP**

- With the release of our new live album “Cornerstone”, be sure to keep the team, the album and its impacts across the globe in your prayers!
- Friday (Brisbane) & Sunday (Sydney) Night Live – During the month of August we present the Gospel in new and innovative ways! What a great opportunity to bring friends and family to Church!!

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

In this passage, Jesus describes people who build their lives on his teaching as wise

**Read:** Matthew 7; 24-28

- Q:** What things does Jesus say we need to do to be able to build on this foundation?
- Q:** What is it about Jesus' teaching that makes it a sure foundation for our lives? Why does it protect from the storms of life?
- Q:** Illustrate this with an example of how one of Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount has shaped the foundations of you life

In this passage, Paul talks about building the kingdom upon the foundation which is Jesus

**Read:** 1. Corinthians 3; 5-8, 3; 9-15

- Q:** In what ways is Jesus Himself the foundation for our lives? For the kingdom?
- Q:** What does it mean to build our lives on that foundation?
- Q:** What different ways are there to build our lives on this foundation that is Jesus? What about building the kingdom?
- Q:** Paul identified good and poor ways of building on that foundation. What are good ways? What are poor ways? Give examples.

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

- Q:** In your experience as a leader what things have you seen people build their lives on other than the foundation of Jesus? What were the results?
- Q:** How can we help others to build their lives on Jesus' foundation? (Leader Tip: help them to cultivate their relationship with Jesus, help them to identify parts of their life that are not founded on Jesus, or where they don't trust Him or relinquish control to Him).
- Q:** What does it mean for Jesus to be the foundation of our leadership? How can we promote that in our own leadership?
- Q:** How can we make Jesus the centre of our leadership in the workplace or some other non/church setting where we have influence?

**Check Up**

Check in with leaders in your group on how they're going with raising and releasing new Connect Group Leaders.

**PRAY TOGETHER**

- New Connect Group Leaders
- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- Ps Brian & Bobbie Houston

**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 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.

We support a number of overseas workers in projects throughout south east Asia. One example is Thailand where legends Erik and Marianna Klar have been based as missionaries since 1992. Some of their work includes:

- The River Centre which has been transformed from a Brothel into a thriving Church and community training centre.
- Church planting and community development in the unreached northern Hills tribes near the border with Burma. 100's have come to Christ through arrange of projects including water and toilet ministry!
- Reaching out into a southern city to rescue girls who are being trafficked

