



# I LOVE MY CONNECT

## STUDY 20

### Seen and Heard.

**Acts 2:32-33 (NIV), 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NIV), 1 Corinthians 2:2-5 (MSG), Acts 4:13-19 NIV**

Every week people of all ages and cultures are touched by the power of the Holy Spirit. The person of the Holy Spirit is at work and faith is rising up as a result. Genuine God encounters are causing radical change in people's lives. Prayer lives are on fire. Expectation for weekend services is high as people have encounters that are both **seen and heard**. The evidence of God moving in life-changing ways is always encouraging and leaves people's spirit soaring. What an exciting time we live in! What amazing opportunities we have!

Part of the vision that Pastor Brian and Bobbie have for our church is that each person would have the kind of tangible connection with God, through Jesus, where the person of the Holy Spirit is actively working in such a way where what is poured out can't be ignored. Have you ever had someone tell you there's something different about you, or someone ask why are you always smiling? Encountering God changes us for the better. Joy replaces sorrow. Hope replaces despair. Expectation replaces doubt. We long to encounter the Holy Spirit in such a way that something is **seen and heard**.

As we head into the Christmas season and continue to seek God's favour, let's be expecting the Holy Spirit to pour out and transform all areas of our lives; from the day to day, to our prayer lives, our relationships, and into all areas of church life. This kind of expectation changes the atmosphere of our services and results in people being filled with the Holy Spirit and left full of faith. There's no denying that the Holy Spirit has moved, is moving, and continues to move. Let's decide to be people who continue to passionately seek the Holy Spirit. Let's believe for people to encounter God in a way where they feel God, sense God, hear from God, and walk away believing! Let's never be satisfied with the kind of faith that is sedated and familiar, but always seek to create an atmosphere where anything can happen and it probably will.

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

**Q:** Give an example of when you encountered the Holy Spirit? What changed in your life as a result?

**Q:** Pastor Brian recently spoke of having the kind of faith that cannot be ignored. How would you describe your faith?

**Q:** What obstacles are standing between you and your next God encounter? (**Leaders:** Have the group encourage and pray for one another, believing for breakthrough)

**Q:** What areas of your faith is the Holy Spirit currently challenging? (**Hint:** prayer life, attitude, habit, next steps, even expectations)

**Q:** Discuss expectations of what you want to **see and hear** from God in this season.

#### HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Heart & Soul Night with Pastor Brian Houston is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov starting 7pm at our Hills Campus. These nights are a highlight as Ps Brian shares his heart regarding our church and all that's in store for us! Connect Groups are on at Heart & Soul night.

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

**Read:** Acts 4:13-19 (NIV)

**Q:** Discuss how God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things? (*Hint: Give examples from favourite Biblical characters*)

**Q:** 'These men had been with Jesus.' A relationship with Jesus is evident to all those around us. Do you agree? Do you have an example?

**Q:** Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him?" How do we live with the same conviction - God above all else?

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 2: 2-5 (The Message)

**Q:** Everything begins with Jesus and what he accomplished. Does your faith have this same foundation? Explain.

**Consider:** "A life of faith is a response to God's power."

**Q:** How can we see God's power poured out in our lives and our church? (*Hint: A life of worship, Jesus at the centre, expectation*)

**Q:** How can we ensure we rely on God's power, not human wisdom? (*Hint: It's not about me*)

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

**Q:** How can God's power and presence be seen in the life of a leader? How might this be different for leaders compared to their followers?

**Q:** As leaders, how can we help cultivate the presence of God in our weekend services? In our Connect Groups? (*Hint: not becoming familiar, expectation, humility, and Jesus as the foundation*)

**Q:** In what ways do you believe you need to grow as a Spirit-empowered leader?

**Q:** "The man with experience is never at the mercy of a man with an argument." Share about the power of personal experience.

### Check Up

Check in with leaders in your group on how they're going with:

- Raising new leaders and starting new Connect Groups.

### PRAY TOGETHER

- New Connect Group Leaders
- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- Doody St

### 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.

Brendan & Camille White planted Hillsong Paris in 2004. France is one of the most secular nations on the planet. Recently Ps Brian spoke about the phenomenal growth we are seeing when he and Bobbie were in Paris as part of their visit to our Global Churches. Ps Brian reported that when he visited Paris in 2011 there were around 1,100 people in attendance. This year, he saw over 2,000 people in Church. Please continue to pray for our Global Churches