



STUDY 21

What Kind of Person Do You Want to Be?

Proverbs 21:2, 8, 16, 17, 20, 24, 25, 28, 29

Every day we are presented with opportunities to think, act and react in a certain way and to make decisions that will affect the lives of not only ourselves but of those around us. In our own eyes the way we've chosen seems right but when negative strongholds have been built within our soul and in our minds, we become blinded and bound without even realising it. We rely on these trusted patterns of thinking, these strongholds, these ways that seem right, but ultimately they lead to destruction.

If we allow thoughts to run rampant they can become dominant thoughts which start to have a level of control over us and if we don't do anything about it, it becomes something that starts to make sense in our minds. It seems right, we can build an argument for it, and then ultimately it becomes a stronghold in our life.

Proverbs 21 talks about common strongholds that we build, including; guilt, poor stewardship, arrogance, laziness, insecurity, duplicity of character, and wandering with our hearts, eyes or geographically. A wise person challenges and tears down these strongholds in their life. If we don't deal with the ways in our heart, these trusted patterns, then they will ultimately have their cost and you pay the price, which could look like a lack of joy or lack of breakthrough in your life.

In our own strength we can never get over the top of these strongholds. We can't just use words to overcome them unless it is the Word of God, those praise-filled, God glorifying words, in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. Let's believe God can change us from the inside out and not settle into a way of thinking and being that is defeated on the inside, conceding to circumstances. Let's live by the power of the Holy Spirit!

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

- Q:** Have you ever tried to change or build a habit? Tell us about it.
- Q:** What about a pattern of thinking? How did you go about changing or building it? What worked for you and what didn't work?
- Q:** What do you think is the role of habits and patterns of thinking in building our lives?
- Q:** Give us some examples of people you know whose lives are a positive example of the power good habits and patterns of thinking.
- Q:** What habits and patterns of thinking are you pleased you have? Why?
- Q:** What ones do you wish you had? Why?

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- As we approach the end of the year, we are focusing on NATION BUILDERS. Many of you would have set a FAITH GOAL at the start of the year while some groups choose a ONE-OFF OFFERING. This is a great time to inspire your group to meet your faith goal, or to receive a special Nation Builders offering. Please THANK your Connect Group for their Nation Builders giving and set a date (if you choose to receive a one-off offering).

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I LOVE MY CONNECT

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

Read Proverbs 1:1-6

Q: What does this passage say the purpose of the book of Proverbs is?

Q: How do you think we should the book of Proverbs? How do you use it?

Exercise

- Get everyone to **Read** Proverbs 21 and get them to highlight verses that stand out to them.

- Break into pairs and get people to answer these questions:

Q: What verse really stood out to you?

Q: Why?

Q: What is that verse encouraging you to do? Is God saying something to you?

Q: How could you put it into practice? What should you start doing or stop doing?

Q: What verses stood out to you?

- Finish by praying for each other.

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

Q: What leadership habits do you have? That is, what things do you habitually do as part of your leadership?

Q: What patterns of thinking have you had to develop to be a more effective leader?

Q: What ones are you trying to develop or realise you need to?

Q: What things can we do as leaders to help those we lead develop new habits and patterns of thinking? Give some examples.

Q: What strategies do you employ to change or build habits and patterns of thinking in your own life?

Check Up

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

- Helping people take their Next Step.

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.

Hillsong Church in Paris has been experiencing phenomenal growth recently. In a recent interview, Brendan White said that what might seem insignificant to you is actually having a great impact on the other side of the world. What we do locally impacts globally! The journey in Paris is really amazing with life after life being transformed. Connect groups across the city have grown, people are being water baptised and families in need are being cared for. Your contribution has helped all this to happen. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of many people and the nation of France. You can watch the interview on <https://secure.myhillsong.com/ConnectGroups/My/Studies.aspx>