



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 22

Turning Limitations into Opportunities

1 Samuel 17:17-37, Malachi 3:10, Ephesians 3:20, Ecclesiastes 11:4-6

All of us have limitations. They could be as small as being left-handed amongst a right-handed majority or larger, like living with a disability.

Many of the limitations we struggle with are beyond our control. However it is our perspective on these restrictions in life that will determine our success in life.

Many people are so focussed on their limitations that they are oblivious to the opportunities that come along. We need to learn to see beyond our limitations and look for the opportunities. We need to have eyes to see the world in terms of possibilities instead of impossibilities and an attitude that moves forward in faith in spite of the obstacles. After all, we partner with a God who is able to do far beyond what we could ever imagine.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).

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

- Q. Read** 1 Samuel 17:17-37. David was asked to take cheese to the battle front. Describe two different perspectives on this task - firstly seeing through the eyes of limitation and then through the eyes of opportunity. How did David's perspective propel him into a different future? (**Leader's Tip:** Limitations - just a demeaning, menial task, not getting to fight the real battle, vs an opportunity to support, encourage his brothers and nation)
- Q. Note** v.33 of this passage: "You are only a young warrior..." Saul said of David. What things have people said about you that start with the phrase: "You are only..."?
- Q.** Why is this attitude of seeing opportunity rather than limitation important for a life of purpose and destiny?
- Q.** Consider times in the past where you have embraced a new opportunity in spite of the obstacles. What has been the outcome of your attitude?
- Q.** Share opportunities you are facing in your own life. They could be in any area. Are you embracing them with opportunity or containment thinking? (**Leader's Tip:** For Example: In ministry life, careers, relationships, finances).

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).

More
over the
page





I LOVE MY CONNECT

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

- Q. Read** 1 Samuel 17:12-33. Identify the limitations David faced in this situation. *(Leader's Tip: Answers may include being the youngest son in the family and therefore the most powerless; being unknown and rejected; being despised by his brothers; trained only in shepherding not in battle (couldn't fit armour); facing a giant that everyone feared etc.)*
- Q. Read** 1 Samuel 17:34-37 and Ephesians 3:20. How does opportunity thinking reflect a heart of faith?
- Q.** Compare Eliab's perspective on David's motives (v.28) to David's own motives (v.47). How does our motives influence the way we approach opportunity?
- Q.** How can David's perspective be applied to your own life? Consider both the limitations and opportunities being faced. *(Leader's Tip: Encourage people to consider both personal and church opportunities - including Heart for the House)*

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

- Q.** Why is the attitude of seeing opportunities rather than limitations critical to a leader?
- Q.** How readily do you adopt this attitude? What have you had to do to develop it?
- Q.** Share a time when you have faced serious limitations in your life or team yet have moved forward in faith.
- Q.** How are you applying this same attitude to the people you are leading?
- Q.** How can this approach to life be passed on to your teams effectively and wisely?

Check Up

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

- Planning new Connect Groups in 2013.

PRAY TOGETHER

- New Connect Group Leaders
- Decisions for Jesus in our Christmas 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>