



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 3

A Year of Favour

Read: Ps 30:4-5, Ps 23, Ps 34:9-10

In Psalm 30:5 it says "His favour lasts a lifetime" – God's favour is for life! And then in Psalm 23:1, it says "the Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." And in v 5 "... my cup overflows." To "want" means to diminish, to decrease, to deplete... literally to be in lack, but to "overflow" means to replenish, to saturate, to drench... literally to enrich, to make abundant.

The great theme of God's word is that he wants to bless you with His grace and His favour and overflow. Have the raw courage of David as he determinedly says "I shall not want." Believe for a spirit of overflow in your life, to live in abundance!

Some people get a contentment, an almost pseudo-spirituality about lack, as if it's the way to serve God, settling for less than God's intention and living inhibited. Scripture tells us that the only lack we are promised is... to lack nothing! (1 Thess 4:12, Ps 34:9-10)

When it comes to helping, making a difference, reaching the nations, making a difference in our own city and in our own world; lack holds back opportunity. Let's get faith for favour.

Scripture is filled with what God is able to do, we sing that "God is able" (Eph 3:20, 2 Pet 1:4). He wants to take you exceedingly, abundantly above what you could think. Let's not have a hope that God will one day answer our prayers but have an expectation of a God that is able to do exceedingly.

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

- Q:** Describe what overflow and abundance could look like for you this year – in your family relationships, your career or business, your studies, your God-given vision.
- Q:** How does God's favour and overflow practically come into our lives? Share an example from your own life.
- Q:** Describe some of the negative consequences of lack, and the positive consequences of abundance that you've encountered.
- Q:** In what way is experiencing an overflow or abundance in your circumstances related to having an overflowing, abundant spirit?
- Q:** How does someone develop an overflowing spirit?
- Q:** How do we maintain belief in God's goodness and favour during times of challenge? How well do you do with this?
- Q:** What challenges are your believing to turn into overflow this year?

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- HILLSONG FOUNDATION BREAKFAST – Our first one of 2012! This is a great opportunity to gather and connect with our church family as we centre on a united cause. 8am Saturday 25th February @ Hills/City/South West & Brisbane Campuses. RSVP myhillsong.com
- COLOUR YOUR WORLD CONFERENCE – Conference One at the Sydney Entertainment Centre 15-17th March still has room for you and the girls! Register now at colourconference.com. Men please do whatever you can to release the girls in your world to Colour!

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

Q: Some religious ways of thinking seem to make a "lack" a virtue and "abundance" something to be suspicious of. What do you think is the source of this mindset?

Q: What's the difference between "lack" and "sacrifice"?

Read these following Scriptures about "lack" - Job 4:11, 36:12, Prov 5:23, 10:21, 11:14, Hos 4:6

Q: What picture do you get from these verses of God's view of lack?

Read these following Scriptures about favour and abundance - Ps 30:4-5, 23:1-6, 34:9-10, Eph 3:20, 2 Pet 1:4, 2 Chron 31:5, 2 Cor 9:8

Q: What is the picture we get of God and his heart and purpose towards us from these passages.

Q: How easy or difficult to you find it to believe in God's favour towards you? Why?

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

Q: As a leader, rate yourself in terms of your level of overflow in these areas:

- Creativity and ideas
- Faith and positivity
- Encouragement of others
- Generosity
- Tenacity, peace and optimism during challenge.
- Developing others
- Resource

Q: Which two of these are a priority for you to grow in? What are you going to do to develop them?

Strategising

Discuss things you can do to increase "overflow" and "abundance" in your connect groups this year.

PRAY TOGETHER - Colour Sisterhood

- Everyone engages with the spirit of all that is happening
- Holy Spirit to help us achieve what we need to
- Clarity of vision & ease of preparation

Colour Sisterhood Testimony

Each year the mandate of the Colour Conference is the same, to place value on womanhood so that they can place value upon humanity. This year is just another layer to that picture, another step in the journey but we are so excited because we have some really tangible easy ways for you to make a difference. We wanted to give you a sneak peak at some of the great things that we have accomplished as a Sisterhood this year...

• As a conference last year the women gave over \$60,000 in gift cards to be distributed to flood relief victims! Some of the stories of where these went and the impact that they had will be told at Colour this year!

• As a Hillsong Sisterhood we launched a loose change for change (girls saving up their loose change) and as of December we have managed to complete fundraising to buy a BUS for Vision Rescue, their first bus in Kolkata (Calcutta)

• 11 more surgeries have been performed on women suffering mutilation in Uganda as a result of the Civil War. 50 more women are going through a trauma rehabilitation program prior to their surgery.

All of these stories and many more will be fleshed out at Colour Conference this year and we so hope that you can position yourself at conference to be a part of the ongoing mandate and mission of the Colour

NATION BUILDERS Use this section to inspire and inform people on the difference their giving can make. Together we support

1. **Church Planting.** Moscow, Paris, NYC, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Germany, Japan and Toronto.

2. **Gospel Missions.** Missions Aviation Fellowship, Sports Chaplaincy, overseas workers in China, Kazakstan, Pakistan, Thailand and South East Asia.

If you haven't already done so, please take the time during you next meeting to set a new Nation Builders Faith Goal for your Connect Group in 2012.

