



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 4

You Crown The Year With Goodness!

Read: Ps. 65:11; Ps. 23:5; Prov. 3:4; Prov. 8:35; 2 Cor. 9:8; Rom. 5:1-2

What powerful confessions of King David in Psalm 65:11 and Psalm 23! The promise of God for his people is abundance and overflow.

Across the span of his life, David encountered some challenges, some tough times, some opposition, and some difficulties. Yet this is the same David who declares in Psalm 65 to the Lord "You crown the year with goodness". (Ps 65:11)

In the verses around this declaration, the Psalmist expands on God's favour towards His people, with the agricultural analogy of land being prepared for growth: He waters ridges; settles furrows; makes it soft with showers; and blesses it's growth.

Maybe there are things in your life that have just dried up; or are up in the air; or need to be settled. Or perhaps there is a sense that you need some hard ground to be made soft. Maybe you started out this year with some growth but it seems to have come to a halt. Nevertheless, "He Crowns the Year With Goodness," and we can still believe for the Lord to bless its growth! God's favour doesn't mean an absence of weeping, opposition or disappointment, but it means we can look at a year with a 'big picture' perspective and see it through eyes of favour. It's a perspective that doesn't just think and live with a focus on personal gain but looks to benefitting and helping others. This way of viewing favour recognises that when something grows, it can accomplish great things for others and contribute in multiple ways with a purpose beyond ourselves – for the good works that God has called us to. (2 Cor. 9:8)

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

Q: Describe a time when you had been living contained by negative circumstances but the "year" or "season" you were in turned out to be "Crowned with God's Favour."

Q: In what ways are you believing for God to tend your land this year? e.g.

- Hard ground that needs to be made soft
- Things up in the air that need to be settled
- Messy situations that need to be smoothed out
- Areas that just need to start flourishing and growing

Q: How are these areas related to benefitting others and contributing to things of eternal value? **Leaders' Note: Use this as an opportunity to encourage involvement in Church Life; Hillsong Foundation; etc**

Q: How can the favour of God become a distraction and not a blessing for purpose in your

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- 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:** What is the Biblical view of what it is to be The People of God? Refer to Gen. 12:1-3; Deut. 30:8-10; Isaiah 54:10-17; 1 Samuel 17:20-37 & 45-47.
- Q:** How was King David able to keep his perspective that God's favour was towards His people?

Read the following Scriptures about favour being about how we see things: Gen. 39:21; Ex. 3:21; Ex. 12:36; Ruth 2:13; 1 Sam. 16:22.

- Q:** What do we realize about favour from the lives of Moses, Joseph, Ruth and David?
Leaders' Note: Favour is not about us! It's about the One who favours us! It's about GRACE!

Read the following Scriptures about favour: Matt. 5:13-16; Luke 4:18-19; Acts 3:1-10

- Q:** What do we learn? **Leaders' Note:** God's Grace & Favour are for purpose and to benefit others! It was Jesus' ministry and it is His disciples' call also.

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

- Q:** As Leaders how can we help people keep a 'Big Picture' perspective on favour?
- Q:** What are some of the challenges to maintaining this perspective?

Share ways you have helped to overcome such challenges in the past.

- Q:** In order to see things grow and overflow in abundance in your area of leadership or ministry, what do you first need to recognize that might need to be "softened," "settled," or "smoothed out?"
- Q:** How can you be part of that process and where do you simply need to see God's favour and "rain?"

Pray for one another and for God's favour.

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 Sisterhood. If ONE woman can change her world IMAGINE what one COMPANY of women can do!!!

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 your next meeting to set a new Nation Builders Faith Goal for your Connect Group in 2012.

