



## STUDY 5

### Better than Average

**2 Cor 9:2, 2 Cor 6:14, 2 Thess 3:6, 11, Ps 101:3**

No matter who you are, there's nothing average about what God wants to do in your life. What God has called you to is not average. Our church is built around a lot of average people but what God has wanted to do and is doing is anything but average. What God does is extraordinary, miraculous and supernatural! As average as we may be, God doesn't want average to be your portion when it comes to the purposes of God in your life.

Some of life's biggest choices that will determine if you live your life on a path leading downwards or nowhere or on a path moving upwards toward God-given purpose, are the choices you make with the company you keep. Don't underestimate the importance of friendships, relationships, partnerships and companionships

If a relationship is drawing us downwards rather than pulling us upwards then we need to make firm choices to withdraw from them, as they can cause us to draw back from the God-given potential in our life. We don't always have to cut people off, but we do have to make choices about how great an impact they're going to have in our life and our spirit.

One of the things we need to be looking at are those who spur us on. Our mentors, leaders, pastors and friends. The ones who outdo us in eagerness, zeal and passion. The ones whose net impact on our lives is to lift us up. Look for the positive relationships that help you say: "I can do it, God can do it, He can use me, He can do it in us"

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

- Q:** Without thinking negatively, what are some areas of life where you are "average"?
- Q:** Who are some people that you look up to in your life? Why?
- Q:** Describe a relationship that lifted you up. What was it about that person that lifted you? What was some of the fruit that you saw from your relationship with them?
- Q:** Describe a relationship that pulled you down, or had potential to. What was it about that relationship that had or could have had a negative effect? How have you responded to that relationship?
- Q:** Sports players seek to play with people who are better than them to improve their game. How does this concept relate to the relationships in your life?
- Q:** How do you balance being "challenged and stretched" and being "comfortable and safe" in a friendship?

#### HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- EASTER WEEKEND – Who can you invite to church during this powerful weekend!! From our Good Friday services (joining in Communion) to our Resurrection Sunday services (with Reinhard Bonnke Sunday night), we will be celebrating the Cross = Love message of Jesus. See [easter.myhillsong.com](http://easter.myhillsong.com) for service times and everything you need to know.

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# I LOVE MY CONNECT

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

**Read: Ps 1:1-2, Matt 9:9-13, 1 Cor 5:6-13, 2 Cor 6:14, Col 4:5-6, 2 Pet 3:15**

Each of these passages explores our relationships with godly and ungodly people.

*(Leader's Note: For some of this discussion you may want to divide the group up around individual passages to save time.)*

- Q:** What is the theme and context of each of these passages?
- Q:** Study each passage and list as many things as you can find that each one says about relationships with godly and ungodly people.
- Q:** What positive encouragements and instructions can we draw from these passages?
- Q:** What warnings and safeguards can we gain from these passages?
- Q:** What other passages can you think of that are relevant to this topic?
- Q:** What conclusions can you make from this study?
- Q:** What ways do you need to apply your findings from this study?

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

- Q:** Who are the leaders who are sharpening and lifting you? What is it about them that does this? How are you different as a result?
- Q:** Who are you lifting? What about you lifts them? What areas can you grow in to increase your impact?
- Q:** What guidance would you give to a young Christian about their relationships with unsaved friends and family? What challenges do you think they will find?

### Colour Your World Check-in

Get testimonies from the women in your group about their Colour experience.

### Check Up

Check in with leaders in your group on:

- Growing and multiplying connect groups this year
- Raising and developing leaders

### PRAY TOGETHER

- Colour Conference Week 2 - Everyone engages with the spirit of all that is happening
- Easter Weekend - People to encounter Jesus!
- Nation Builders Faith Goal

### PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside of 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** 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.

In previous years, we sowed seed into Churches in London, Kiev and Cape Town. Today we see incredible fruit! How exciting that we can now plant seed into new Churches like NYC and Germany. Your giving TODAY will make a difference in the nations TOMORROW

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.

