



STUDY 8

What Jesus Became, What We Can Become

1 Cor 1:18, 2 Cor 8:9, 2 Cor 5:21, Phil 2:6-11

Everything about the message of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, a cross of crucifixion, is about who, what and where Jesus was and what He was prepared to become, to take us from what we'd become to where He intends us to be. Just think of the power of that!

1 Cor 1:18 tells us that it's not an exclusive message! It's a "whosoever will" statement. It is the most inclusive message; every strata of society, culture and creed, every failing and background is included.

No longer do we have to live on foundation of everything that's wrong with us. Suddenly, because He was prepared to come from where He was and come to where we are, we don't have to live according to everything that's wrong with us. We can live according to everything that's right with Him.

A Christianity without the cross as a central point is a powerless Christianity. Christ crucified - everything that it represents and the power it brings into our own life, it all represents who He was and who He was prepared to become, so that you could be who He intends for you to be.

Let's look at the cross and let's understand that the cross, and everything about it, is about what Jesus was prepared to become. Everything about it, is so that the love of God can be more than just something that you've heard about, you can be living with the love of God as your portion and it's all because of Jesus.

Jesus connects us to God, to God's grace, to God's eternal promise, and allows you to look forward to a better day, to become who He intends for you to be.

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

- Q:** What was your life like before you became a Christian? Describe it for us.
- Q:** What were some of the early changes that happened in you and your life after you became a Christian. (**Leader's Tip:** Get people to share some key stories of change).
- Q:** What do you think it was like for Jesus to leave heaven and become a man? What were some of the things He left behind? What new experiences and limitations did He take on?
- Q:** What specific aspects of the old "you" did Jesus take to the cross? What aspects of your new life come from the cross?
- Q:** How does Jesus death on the cross provide a model for our Christian lives? What about in work, career, home, business or study?

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Mother's Day – We will be celebrating and honouring all the mums! Mobilise your group to bring mums to church on this special occasion.
- Sunday Night visits Friday Night (Friday 11th May) – Sunday Night services are visiting Friday night. Water Baptisms and the International Food Festival will also be happening; check myhillsong.com for service times!

More
over the
page



I LOVE MY CONNECT

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

Read John 1:1, 14, Phil 2:6-8.

These passages describe Jesus, though equal with God, making Himself nothing and like one of us.

Q: What did Jesus have that He gave up when He left heaven?

Q: What did He take up when He became one of us?

Q: Why do you think this was necessary? What other scriptures helpful in answering this question? (**Leader's Tip:** try Heb2:5-18, 4:14-5:10).

Read Rom 5:1-11, Eph 1:3-14

Q: From these passages, list all the things we have received through the cross of Jesus.

Q: What do you need to change about your beliefs or your confession based on what these passages teach?

Read Phil 2:1-5, 1 Pet 2:21, Heb 12:1-3

Q: From these passages, how does Jesus's death on the cross serve as a model or example for us?

Q: How can you apply these ideas to your life?

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

Q: How is Jesus's model of leadership different from worldly forms of leadership?

Q: How does Jesus' going to the cross provide a model for us as leaders?

Q: What specific leadership practices can be modelled off Jesus' going to the cross?

Q: How did the heart of Jesus that led Him to the cross express itself in the way he lead in the rest of his ministry?

Q: What might "cross-like" leadership look like in a non-church context like work, business, sport or government?

Check Up

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

- Raising new leaders and starting new Connect Groups.

PRAY TOGETHER

- New Connect Group Leaders
- Nation Builders Faith Goal
- Hillsong Copenhagen – Thomas & Kat Hansen

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 – 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.

At Vision Sunday 2012 Pastor Brian announced that Thomas & Katherine Hansen will be heading to Denmark to start Hillsong Church COPENHAGEN. They will be holding an interest night on May 8th in Copenhagen to help build teams and connect groups, while looking to relocate to Copenhagen at the start of September. Please pray for Thomas and Kat, for people to join as team members and for favour and guidance.