



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 11

My Spirit, My Responsibility

Proverbs 25:28, Mark 10:21, Acts 13:2, II Corinthians 6:14

We are responsible for our spirit. If we neglect to take responsibility for our spirit, we allow things to rule and cling to our spirit; becoming like ancient cities with broken down walls, left open to attack, and will lack wisdom, make poor choices, become emotionally unstable – full of jealousy, anger, hurt, bitterness, and offense. When we allow life to mark our spirit, it can hinder us from entering into all that God has for us. An excellent spirit will make a way for us in life so we can walk through the doors God opens for us.

Our spirit is an engine room for life; it is the part of us where God lives. God's Spirit is generous and free; when we keep our spirit like his, we make room for the Holy Spirit within us. A right spirit provides the way for God to do what he wants to do in and through us in Jesus name. It is obedient to God, maintains a humble, teachable position and trusts that when God puts something on our life, no one can take it from us.

We need God and we need people. With a right spirit we remain loyal and authentic and allow the right people to know us, love us and tell us what we need to hear. We nurture God-ordained partnerships that help us grow, produce fruit, and align with the kingdom goals God has given us. With a right spirit we accept failure is a part of life, are accountable, learn, and wear success well with humility and honor for others.

Our life depends on keeping a right spirit. We must refuse to let the negativity and offense of others sabotage, rule or twist our hearts. When we face opposition we must understand our fight is never against people and that Jesus has overcome the world. As a church, may we always live life with God's generous, free spirit, led to live unoffended lives, seasoned in his word, guarding our spirit with his wisdom, taking responsibility for our issues, and always trusting God as we walk unhindered through open doors together.

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

ICEBREAKER: Who are some people you enjoy being around?

- Q:** Some people have the kind of spirit that opens doors for them. Can you think of people like that? What is it about them that makes people want to have them around?
- Q:** Are you one of those people? How can you become more like that? What would the impact be if you were able to?
- Q:** Would you consider yourself to have a teachable spirit? How would you know?
- Q:** Who do you allow to love you and tell you what you need to hear? Describe an instance where they told you a tough truth you needed to hear, and the difference it made.
- Q:** Which are your existing God-ordained partnerships? Why would you call these "God-ordained"? What fruit and growth have these relationships help bring about in your life?
- Q:** How do you go with failure? Share a recent time you learned and grew through failure.
- Q:** What do you think of Ps Brian's statement: "No mature Christian, who is seasoned in the Word, has any reasonable excuse to live offended."

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- City Care "Love One" campaign

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

Read: Mark 10:17-22, Exodus 18:13-26

- Q:** What do you learn from these passages about how to speak the truth to someone?
- Q:** What was it about Moses that enabled him to accept his father-in-law's counsel? What was it about the rich young ruler that caused him to reject Jesus' counsel?

Read: Acts 13:2, II Corinthians 6:14

- Q:** From these scriptures identify some attributes of fruitful partnerships.
- Q:** What other God-ordained partnerships can you think of in the Bible?
- Q:** What good things came from these godly partnerships? What challenges might arise?
- Q:** Paul and Barnabas' partnership ended in unpleasant circumstances (Acts 15:36-41). How did this happen and what can we learn from it?

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

- Q:** Consider the influence of a leader's spirit on a team. What do you think are the most important ingredients in a successful leader's spirit?
- Q:** Do teams or groups have a spirit? How, as a leader, can you cultivate it?
- Q:** Who are you partnering with as a leader – in church, business or life? How is that helping you be more fruitful?
- Q:** Identify fruitful, growing, God-partnerships on your team. What can you do as a leader to cultivate these and other relationships within your team?
- Q:** Leaders can sometimes be the hardest people to tell tough truths to. How easy is it for someone to challenge you about your leadership?
- Q:** As a leader, how can we respond when someone on our team or group gets offended?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- Pastors Brian & Bobbie Houston

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, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500 or Newcastle 02 4927 1888 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 – ON MISSION

One of the best ways we can make a difference as a connect is to regularly PRAY for the Nation Builders causes we support, and regularly inspire your group to receive your Nation Builders offering. Your giving makes a massive difference in helping us 'reach and influencing the world'.

Hillsong Church, Kiev & Moscow

Please take the time to pray for our churches in Kiev and Moscow, especially at this uncertain time. If you follow Ps Bobbie on twitter /Instagram, you will have seen amazing pictures contrasting the atmosphere of value and hope inside the Colour services with the tragic scenes on the streets: "Let's keep praying God's will into all this unrest and tension. Many of us might be removed from this geographically, but these are our brothers and sisters. Our hearts are with them, right?" Let's express the convictions of our hearts and please take the time to give a great Nation Builders offering.

