



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 12

My Faith, My Victory

Hebrews 10:25, 11:6; 1 John 4:4, 5:4; Romans 5:2, 10:8-9; Matthew 21:21

Everyone loves to win. It feels incredible to win, to be victorious. The focus of our faith in Jesus is to rule and reign our lives with him. Faith is a vehicle to God's grace and victory. In faith, we believe God rewards those who seek him. We trust the Word is near us as promised, and keep faith in our hearts and our mouths – trusting, believing and confessing Jesus Christ is Lord.

Our faith is in God, not in faith. We see victories in our life in answered prayer yet we believe and trust God for who he is – not just for what he does, or our ability to believe and ask him for what we want. Through our faith, we rejoice in hope because God's favor gives us access to his grace and our salvation. We keep our faith secure, protected, and in good working order through the word of God which keeps our hearts from crashing, corroding, and becoming discouraged and disillusioned.

We love God not just for what he does for us. Jesus is Lord over every part of our lives and we come to him not just when we need something. We come to him, in faith, meeting together, confessing who God is, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep, creating a vibrant faith atmosphere that sharpens, fuels, and sets us free in Jesus' name.

We live in faith. When we face impossibilities we trust God can move the mountains in front of us, behind us. Our Jesus has overcome the world and we are victorious through him and have obtained his mercy, grace, faith and love. In his grace, he gives us life that exceeds all of our expectations and capabilities, and we know our victories can only be because of him.

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

ICEBREAKER: Tell us about a great win, success or breakthrough you've had in life.

- Q:** What things do you do to grow your faith?
- Q:** We can't see faith but we can see its impact in people's lives. What does faith look like in someone's life? What about lack of faith?
- Q:** What factors can attack our faith? How do you protect your faith?
- Q:** What does it mean to believe and love God for who he is, not just for what he does for us? Why is this important?
- Q:** What do you think of Ps Brian's idea that Jesus sees us as friends whilst we see him as Lord?
- Q:** What are you doing now to sharpen your faith? What more could we do?
- Q:** What mountains or challenges do you have in your life? What biblical promises can you apply to those mountains?
- Q:** What areas in your life need God's grace and victory? Pray in faith together that you access his grace and victory in Jesus name.

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: Hebrews 11:1-6

- Q:** What stands out to you about faith from these verses?
- Q:** If you had to come up with a definition of "faith" from these verses, what would it be?
- Q:** Verse 1 says "faith is ... certain of what we do not see." What things "we do not see" might this verse have in mind?
- Q:** Why is it impossible to please God without faith? What is it about faith that pleases God?

Read: Mark 11:12-26

- Q:** Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?
- Q:** What are the key features of faith in this passage?
- Q:** How can we "not doubt in our heart" but "believe what we say will happen?" How can we "believe that we have received it?"
- Q:** Why is this "believing we've received" essential for receiving answers to our prayers?
- Q:** How well do you go at applying these principles in your walk with God?

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

- Q:** In what ways has your faith grown since you became a leader?
- Q:** In what ways is faith necessary for a leader?
- Q:** What role does faith have in a successful team?
- Q:** As a leader, how well do you think you do in modelling and inspiring faith?
- Q:** How can we build faith in others?
- Q:** How can you, as a leader, judge the faith level of your group or team?
- Q:** How can we use and lead with faith when we work in a non-Christian environment?
- Q:** What role does faith have in the work of a business person or entrepreneur?
- Q:** How can we help someone walk in faith in the face of challenges and obstacles?

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.

