



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 13

My Faith, My Strength

Hebrews 11:33-34, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8

Our God is incredible at being faithful. He is a covenant keeping God. Our faith is in our faithful God, not in our faith. Our faith is strong because Jesus, not because of our strength. With courageous faith in Jesus, we are more than conquerors. Faith, like a muscle, is strengthened through exercise. If there was nothing to overcome, there would be no need for us to have faith. With resilient, robust faith in our faithful God we access his grace and promises.

God has promises for us to obtain. What God has promised us – his life, peace, joy, love – is far too important to allow the enemy to devour. Together we resist the enemy through faith in Jesus, refuse to let his doubt undermine our faith, stand victorious and he is the one that must flee. When opposition or temptation comes, like the forerunners of our faith, we stand strong and courageous in battles, winning one battle at a time so we can obtain God's promises.

We stand victorious by drawing near to our faithful God. Strong faith is not just words – our faith grows stronger as we focus on God's greatness and worship him with our entire life. We trust we are God's children, our Father is the King of Kings, and Jesus has given us the victory. We stand on God's word and his wisdom in the power of Holy Spirit and stay true to our convictions about who God is and his work in our lives.

Our actions and decision making are the fruit of our faith. With strong faith we hold hope for the future, live according to the purposes and promises of God and see the righteousness of Christ revealed in our lives. As we trust God, he enables us to treat people right and make decisions that lead to life. May we be faithful as he is faithful; trusting him in all things, putting him first in our lives, obtaining the promises our good, covenant keeping God has given us.

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

ICEBREAKER: Share a time when you were on the edge of victory (i.e. sport, application, project, etc). Describe what you did to press on.

- Q:** What do you think of the statement: "Faith, like a muscle, is strengthened through exercise?"
- Q:** Share ways our faith is strengthened and exercised in our daily lives.
- Q:** What are some key promises of God you hold on to in faith?
- Q:** The Holy Spirit reveals God to us, what convictions have you received about who God is?
- Q:** Share examples where faith in Jesus has enabled you to treat people right and make decisions that lead to life.
- Q:** Share a battle you are facing along with a conviction you have about our faithful God.

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: Psalm 27

- Q:** Identify the declarations David makes about who God is in this psalm.
- Q:** What other scriptures do David's declarations about who God is bring to mind?
- Q:** What battles did David give expression to? What purpose do you think this serves?
- Q:** While facing opposition, what declarations does David make about himself and his heart? How important is this to having a stance of strong faith?
- Q:** What does David request of God in this psalm?
- Q:** What can we learn from David's approach to drawing near to God to have strong faith in our lives today?

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

- Q:** Think of a leader you know with strong faith. How does their faith influence and inspire the people on their teams?
- Q:** As leaders, what can we do to build a culture in our teams that reflects strong faith?
- Q:** "As we trust God, he enables us to treat people right and make decisions that lead to life." How does this statement inform our leadership?
- Q:** Consider promises specific to your life, leadership and team. What is keeping you from obtaining them?
- Q:** "Strong faith is not just words..." What ways can we build strong faith in what we do in our teams? What role do our words play in faith-filled

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.

