



# I LOVE MY CONNECT

## STUDY 16

### My Disappointment, My Proving Ground

**Romans 5: 3-5, 10:11; Number 6:27, John 15:16**

Disappointments are a part of life. Disappointment, or shame, does not come from God; it can come from within us or from outside us and often rises from misplaced trust. Disappointment is a strategy of the enemy to sideline us and dislocate us from God's purpose in our life. While God doesn't bring disappointment, he can use our disappointment to develop his character within us. When we trust God in our challenge, our disappointment becomes our proving ground for holding to the will and promises of God in our life.

God appoints us. God loves us and has a purpose and a plan for our life. We are appointed to God-given purposes that line up with the way God has created us. God puts his name on us and empowers us to fulfill our appointment. When we trust in Jesus, God can use trouble to build character in us. He wants to forge strength deep within us that sustains us through all trouble and challenge – so we last the distance he wants to take us in life.

Jesus has appointed us to be fruitful. We are on this earth for a God-given assignment; to be fruitful and glorify God with the gifts and talents God has given us. With Jesus every challenge becomes an opportunity to overcome and defeat disappointment in our life. With his character in us we refuse to allow temporary disappointment to rule us, take us in the opposite direction of his will or override our eternal, God-given appointment.

With our faith in Jesus, we step out into God's appointment. As we encounter challenge we allow God's word and promise to burn in our hearts and lead us to overcome any circumstances that try to crush and disappoint us. God's will is to bless us, through his Spirit he pours into us so we can live within the sphere that he has called us, with great hope, empowered to fulfill the appointment he has given us. In Jesus, we trust God has appointed us, builds character in us so he can pour his blessing into us; making our lives fruitful for his glory – just as he promised.

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

**ICEBREAKER:** Share a recent small event (i.e. sports team losing, breaking something, a plan not going your way, misplacing something) that caused you to be disappointed. How did it impact you and how did you shake that disappointment?

- Q:** What is a God-given appointment or assignment you have? (i.e. Friend to sinners, worship leader, pastor, preacher, teacher, business owner, Kingdom Builder, Vision Impactor, parent, etc.) What stage are you at in outworking or developing in this calling?
- Q:** Consider past disappointments that tried to dislodge you from God-given appointment. What did you do to overcome and press on?
- Q:** What permanent character, strength or steel can you see God forging in you when you overcome temporary disappointment?
- Q:** Share and encourage each other with promises, scriptures, or words from God that burn like a fire in you and have proven greater than anything that may try to disappoint?
- Q:** Identify fruit in your life that has come from trusting God. What increase in fruitfulness do you believe to grow from your life with God?

#### HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- City Care "Love One" Campaign
- Christmas

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

**Read: 2 Timothy 1:6-14**

- Q:** What promises of God and faith statements does Paul express to Timothy in this passage?
- Q:** Discuss the truth that led Paul to not be ashamed/disappointed by the gospel and to stand in his God-given appointment. What truth in this passage can you hold to when you face challenge?
- Q:** Recall the various "sufferings" Paul experienced as he walked in his God-given appointment. What did it mean for Timothy to "join with [Paul]" in suffering? What does it mean for us today?
- Q:** In this passage, what strength, character or steel has been forged inside Paul? What is God forging in you?
- Q:** What did it mean for Paul and Timothy to "fan into flame" and "guard the good deposit" that was within them? What does it mean for us today as we face challenge and disappointment?

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

- Q:** As leaders, what can we do to establish an overcoming spirit in our team that sees challenge and temporary disappointment as an opportunity to build permanent character?
- Q:** What does it look like as a leader and in our daily lives when we allow God to have his way and forge strength, character and steel within us? How does this process benefit our teams and leadership?
- Q:** What promises of blessings or fruitfulness do you trust your team will take hold of? What are you doing to build strength, hope and faith in your team?
- Q:** How is your current leadership role(s) building your God-given appointment(s)? What more are you trusting God to build in you so you fulfill your appointment for his glory?

## 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'.

### Nation Builders Update: Asia

Steve Dixon and Sam DiMauro hosted three training events in three different Asian nations to equip hundreds of Senior Pastors and then with our College Band held city-wide Night Rallies for thousands of believers. These nights witnessed breakthrough praise and worship, many salvations and healings. These events were held in Bangkok (Thailand), Manila (Philippines) and Kota Kinabulu (Malaysia) but included pastors and believers from surrounding nations, some of which are non-access countries where Christians face persecution because of their faith. Your Nation Builders giving made these events possible and helps us fulfill our Senior pastors passion to 'Champion the Cause of the Local Church everywhere'. Thank you.

