



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 2

Pioneer Again: Part II

Isaiah 43:19, Acts 1:8, Hebrews 11:1

Our church sets out to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ for generations to come. We will always seek to be a church that lives with a pioneer spirit, thankful and open to the big things God has for us.

God uses ordinary people to outwork his extraordinary purpose. When we open ourselves to God's purpose and advance his gospel into the different spheres of life we see territory previously considered uninhabitable flourish. With a pioneering spirit we will reach the unreachable and include the excluded. As in the book of Acts, pioneering the gospel can be music to the ears of those who are lost and uninitiated but clashing brass to the establishment.

Despite opposition, like the apostles, and faithful believers before us, we step out in faith into the new things God is doing. A pioneering spirit centred on Christ will give us a supernatural ability to beat the odds and bring longevity, stretching boundaries and extending horizons; reinventing the parameters of the possible and violating the laws of the impossible.

With pioneering hearts we hold to the faith that paves the way for others to come to know Jesus, faith that is "the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen." Let us then put our whole lives into what God is doing, not taking the easy road, but putting the will of God first in our lives to see fruit in our generation and generations to come through the advancement of his kingdom on earth.

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

ICEBREAKER: Share the most surprised you have been and how you reacted.

- Q:** Who is the most "extraordinary" person you have met? What makes them extraordinary?
- Q:** What does it take for God to do extra-ordinary things through ordinary people?
- Q:** What ordinary areas in your life would you like to open up to God to do something new?
- Q:** Pioneers make uninhabited land habitable. We recently celebrated 30 years as Hillsong Church. During that time, what "uninhabited land" has been made "habitable" for others?
- Q:** What does your pioneering faith gain from being part of a pioneering church, with pioneering leaders?
- Q:** In your family, circle or world, what "uninhabited land" could you pioneer that would allow those who come after you to live freely?
- Q:** In what ways have you been stirred to step out in faith this year?

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- COLOUR YOUR WORLD CONFERENCE – Colour is at Capacity but we can pray as a group that everyone engages with the spirit of all that is happening!

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

Read: Isaiah 43:19, Acts 1:8

- Q:** What extraordinary things does God promise in Isaiah 43:19 and Acts 1:8?
- Q:** What did it mean for the apostles to be a 'witness'? What does being a 'witness' mean for us today?
- Q:** What 'new things' did God do through Jesus in the Gospels, and through the apostles in Acts? What can we learn from their experience?
- Q:** The Church was a "new thing" in the New Testament. What "territory" was taken by planting churches in Acts?
- Q:** What kind of things will it take for Acts 1:8 to be fulfilled? Where do we need to pioneer the gospel today to see this become a reality? How are we doing that as a church?

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

- Q:** How has your leadership benefitted from the pioneering leadership of others?
- Q:** What "territory" would you like to pioneer for the leaders coming up under you? What are you doing to make that a reality?
- Q:** As leaders, one of our tasks is to build established teams and effective ways of doing things. How do we navigate the tension between pioneering and becoming established?
- Q:** How has your faith as a leader been stirred up this year? What new things are you believing for this year?

Strategising

Spend time dreaming about this year.

PRAY TOGETHER

- Colour Conference
- Hillsong LA
- Decisions for Jesus in our services

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 you can be 'On Mission' 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'. We have also uploaded three new video resources to play in your Connect Group – check them out on Myhillsong

Mark & Joyce Wilkinson, Berlin, Germany

Mark and Joyce are graduates of Hillsong College and pioneered a Church in Berlin. Berlin is a city of 3.5 million people. In a typical week, only 5000 people attend evangelical churches – 99.8% of the city do not attend church and there is not one church over 500 people. At the beginning of 2013 Berlin CLC moved to a new venue, a night club in central Berlin. They started with 1 service and are about to begin their 3rd service. Last weekend there were over 400 people in their church! Please pray for Mark and Joyce, for people to continue to come to Christ and for a new venue for 2014.

