



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 4

The Original Pioneer

Hebrews 12:1-2

Jesus was the original pioneer. Jesus, the Word of God become flesh, pioneered creation, pioneered human life, overcoming sin and every attack, pioneered death and resurrection life, and pioneered the building of the Church. When we believe in Jesus, he changes our hearts through salvation, changing our eternity, our lives, our families and generations. Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation and faith, begins his pioneering work first in our hearts.

God plants beautiful things in our hearts – secrets, dreams, hopes, longings – and God's plans for us are much greater than our plans could ever be. God never underperforms, but sometimes our hearts get in the way. The issues of our heart limit our lives. As Jesus is completing his work in and through us, we must be mindful to guard our hearts from things that obstruct his work - such as jealousy, envy, competitiveness, comparison, hurt, bitterness, and unforgiveness. When Jesus, the great surgeon of our heart has his way in us, he reveals the beauty and purpose of God in our lives.

What Jesus starts in our heart he finishes in our life – his salvation starts in our hearts and affects every part of our lives. Everything begins and ends with Jesus – he is the author, captain, leader, pioneer, perfecter, accomplisher and completer of our faith. We must make room in our hearts for him, allow him to expand our hearts, look after what he puts in our heart that he is trying to pioneer, and believe the seed he plants in our heart will bear incredible fruit in our lives.

Let us allow God to begin and finish what he wants to do in our hearts and through our lives, refusing to give the devil ground, opportunity or footholds in our hearts, and holding tightly to the will and purposes of God in our lives. May we always look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

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

ICEBREAKER: Share something you had your heart set on when you were a child.

- Q:** How do you go about developing or discovering God's dreams for your life?
- Q:** Share an example of God fulfilling a desire he planted in your heart?
- Q:** Share some of the things that God changed in your heart early on in your Christian walk. What changes did that produce in your life?
- Q:** Share an example from your own life where the issues of our heart have limited your life.
- Q:** How easy is it for you to keep your heart free of bitterness, envy and unforgiveness? Have you got better at it over time? How?
- Q:** What new things has God planted in your heart this year as we "pioneer again"?
- Q:** Hebrews 12:2 says to "fix our eyes on Jesus." Brainstorm new ways to do this throughout each day.

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- EASTER WEEKEND – Who can you invite to church during this powerful weekend!! From our Good Friday services (joining in Communion) to our Resurrection Sunday services (with Jay John Sunday night), we will be celebrating the Cross = Love message of Jesus. See myhillsong.com/easter for service times and everything you need to know.

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

Read: Colossians 3:1-17

- Q:** What does it mean to “set our hearts on things above” (v1)? What reasons does Paul give for why we should do this? (v1-4)?
- Q:** What things does this passage tell us to “put to death” (v5) and “rid ourselves” (v8)? Why should we?
- Q:** How do we actually do this?
- Q:** This passage talks about our “old self” (v9) and our “new self” (v10). What do you think Paul is talking about?
- Q:** What does our “new self” look like (v10-11)?
- Q:** There are new virtues we are instructed to clothe ourselves with (v12-14). What are these virtues?
- Q:** How do we “clothe ourselves” (v12) with these virtues? How do we “put them on” (v14)?
- Q:** How is this not just works and striving?
- Q:** How do we “let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts” (v15)? *(Hint: Perhaps the rest of the passage has some clues).*

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

- Q:** Share examples where God put something in your heart for your life, team or ministry and you've seen it fulfilled.
- Q:** As a leader, how easy is it for you to recognize “issues” in your own heart that limit your life and team? What steps can you take to mature in this area?
- Q:** What has God planted in your heart for your leadership?
- Q:** Thinking of Jesus as the “pioneer and perfecter of our faith”, what examples from Jesus' leadership can we bring into our own?

Strategising

As leaders, spend times strategizing new things you can pioneer in your connect groups, teams and ministries, that will help us a church move forward in a pioneering way?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Opportunities to share your story with others
- Decisions for Jesus in our Easter Services
- Hillsong LA

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 in your group to pray for our church in Kiev and Moscow at this time of global uncertainty. Let's pray for peace in this region and for wisdom for the governments involved. Please pray for our Pastors and our people in both Moscow and Kiev, that they will continue to focus on Jesus and that the church will go from strength to strength in these challenging times.

