



STUDY 5

Trail Blazing for the Generations: Part 1

Psalm 1, Genesis 5:1-18

We have to make decisions. Small decisions we face can be big decisions in disguise. Often, we can make decisions without thinking about future consequences. Our decisions have generational impact. If we are wise, like Jesus, we will make decisions that leave an inheritance and heritage for future generations. As we pioneer the gospel of Jesus, reaching our world with God's kingdom, we are choosing to blaze a trail for our children and our children's children.

God spoke to Abraham, the father of our faith, about future generations and blessings that involved his descendants. Abraham chose to live his life in faithful obedience to God, making decisions out of God's calling and purpose for his life. He could have made choices thinking only of himself, his comfort, and what was easiest for him, but he didn't. Abraham stayed true to God and what followed were fulfilled promises, blessings and generational impact that led all the way to Jesus. In our lives, we too make decisions that will impact generations.

We must make decisions with the future in mind. Everyday decisions not only have consequences for our lives, but our household and future generations. We can allow circumstances to guide our decisions, but just because something seems to be the easiest thing to do now, doesn't mean it is the best thing for our future. Decisions have impact beyond our situations. Godly wisdom does not lead us to make permanent decisions based on temporary circumstances.

Godly choices will not be ruled by indecisions, comfort, stability, or impulsivity, but will be found in the purpose of God. Let us never underestimate the impact of our life and decisions on future generations and always believe what God can do in and through our lives. May every person pursue and take hold of godly wisdom to make the everyday life choices that will blaze a trail for future generations to be firmly established in God's kingdom.

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

ICEBREAKER: When you are out with a group of people, how easy is it to make decisions about where to go, what to eat, or what movie to watch?

- Q:** Share an example of a small decision you made that was a big decision in disguise.
- Q:** Describe any cultural- or family-specific practices that have shaped or impact the way you make decisions.
- Q:** Share godly decisions the generations before you have made that ended up impacting your life and your faith now.
- Q:** Describe some temporary circumstances we can allow to rule our decisions. (**e.g.** a person loses a job, so decides to uproot and change cities). What can we do to overcome these temporary demands and make decisions with godly wisdom.

ACTIVITY: Share a decision you face that you believe will impact future generations, and which you want to make with godly wisdom. Pray for each other and for wisdom.

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Sunday Night visits Friday Night (Friday 9th May) – Sunday Night services are visiting Friday night. The international food festival will also be on, check myhillsong.com for service times!
- Mother's Day (Sunday 11th May) – We will be celebrating and honouring all the mums! Mobilise your group to bring mums to church on this special occasion.

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I LOVE MY CONNECT

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

Read: Ephesians 5:15-17, Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:12-17

Q: Think of some of the key figures in the Bible. Describe and discuss some of the decisions they made that had impact on future generations, either good or bad.

Q: How do you hear from God and make decisions that are faithful to his calling and purpose? Share scriptures that have been helpful to you.

Q: What key ideas about decision making do the scripture we read out contain?

Q: What does "renewing our mind" (Rom 12:2) mean? Why is it necessary? How does it influence decision making?

Q: What does it take for us today, makes decisions that reflect Colossians 3:17? What generational impact can you see this having in our world?

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

Q: Decisiveness is a key quality of a leader. How easy is it for you to make leadership decisions? Which ones do you find more difficult?

Q: What good leadership decision have you made recently? What made them good?

Q: Are there some leadership decisions you've made that were not so great? What did you learn from making poor decisions?

Q: How can we help new leaders learn the art of making good leadership decisions?

Strategising

Brainstorm ways you can each help specific younger leaders you're developing become better decision makers.

PRAY TOGETHER

- Opportunities to share your story with others
- Decisions for Jesus in our 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.

