

SISTERHOOD CONNECT GROUP STUDY



Connect Study 2

Abigail (2) – An intelligent woman who was a peacemaker

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'
(Matthew 5:9)

We considered in the last study how Abigail acted as a peacemaker in a volatile situation that could have led to great regret for David and death for her household. However we do not know how she handled her wicked and foolish husband Nabal on a day by day basis although her response in a crisis gives us some idea. We all face challenges in our relationships today. What do you do when you realise that the man you married is not perfect and sometimes does not even seem very likeable? Even if you are not married at this point this is a question we can ask of many of our relationships whether it is with an imperfect child, parent, boss or friend.

Consider these four points in relation to your own relationships:

- **Ask God for wisdom** Read James 1:5.
Where do you turn first for wisdom when something goes wrong in your relationships? Share a time when God gave you wisdom.
- **Take responsibility in the relationship** Read Galatians 6:7.
What are you sowing into your relationship? How much responsibility are you taking for building it?
- **Show love anyway** Read 1 John 3:18.
Don Francisco wrote a song 'Love is not a feeling it's an act of the will'. Have there been times when you have chosen to show love despite your feelings. What happened? In what way did acting in a loving way affect your feelings towards that person? (Note: We have to be careful not to act either in order to manipulate or with a martyr complex as neither of these are truly showing love)
- **Recognise when a line has been crossed** Read Romans 12:18.
What are the limitations to living in peace with all people?



Read Acts 5:29. For Abigail going along with Nabal's actions would have meant violating her conscience and what she knew to be right. Have you ever been faced with a situation when to keep the peace in your relationship would mean doing something you know to be wrong? What might it look like for a line to be crossed in your relationship?

Activity:

Write down one way in which you can take responsibility and one way in which you can practically show love in a relationship that is difficult at the moment. Plan to put both into action over the next week.

Pray:

Pray for one another that you will have wisdom and see breakthroughs in your difficult relationships.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Hillsong Conference, register online: hillsong.com/conference
- Mother's Day (Sunday 10th May) – We will be celebrating

NATION BUILDERS

At the start of the year we have the opportunity as Connect Group to set the Faith Goal for what we are believing to give towards Nation Builders. Nation Builders is the Missions Giving of Hillsong Church. Together as Connect Groups we are believing for UNUSUAL things to happen. Take the time during your next meeting to inspire your group to set a Faith Goal for 2015, and lets believe together for our Nation Builders to spark UNUSUAL miracles!

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.

