



Heart For The Mission

Connect Group Studies

Connect Group Studies To Gather Your Community Around

Acts 2:43-45 (NLT)

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45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need."

WHAT IS HEART FOR THE MISSION?

Heart for the Mission (HFTM) is our annual opportunity as Hillsong Church Africa to lean into the mission of God with fresh faith and expectation. It is a season where we align our hearts, resources, and prayers with God's purposes, believing He will do more through us than we can imagine. Together, we are reminded that the church is not built on the gifts and talents of a few, but on the sacrifices of many.

This season also invites us, as a church, to give financially toward the ongoing mission of our church. **On Sunday, 28 September**, we will gather to bring our **sacrificial Heart for the Mission offering**—a moment of faith, unity, and generosity that fuels what God is doing through our church locally and beyond.

Over the next five weeks, we will explore what it means to live with kingdom vision, faith, and generosity—both individually and collectively—as we prepare our hearts for this significant step of faith.



Part 1

Setting Our Hearts on God's Mission

Part 1 of 5-part series: "Heart for the Mission"

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GROUNDING SCRIPTURE

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In this first study, we will focus on what it means to **set our hearts on God's mission**.

Before we talk about giving, serving, or going, we must first see that mission begins in the heart. What we treasure most in life directs our steps, our decisions, and our future. Jesus reminds us that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. As we step into this HFTM season, our prayer is that our hearts would be re-aligned to the things of eternal value, and that we would see God's mission not as an obligation, but as the greatest invitation we could ever receive.

KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Matthew 6:21** (NIV) says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
- **Colossians 3:1–2** (NIV) says, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."
- **Matthew 22:37–39** (NIV) says, "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"



DISCOVERY

From Genesis to Revelation, the story of Scripture reveals God on mission, seeking to redeem, restore, and reconcile humanity to Himself. This mission has always been at the centre of God's heart, and He now invites us to participate in it. Jesus teaches us that our heart follows what we value most; therefore, aligning our treasure with God's kingdom is a heart decision before it is ever a financial or practical one.

Paul reminds us in Colossians to set our hearts and minds above; a call to lift our vision higher than the temporary distractions of this world. When we grasp this perspective, we begin to see our time, talents, and treasure as tools to advance God's eternal purposes. Ultimately, love for God and love for people is the foundation of living on mission. HFTM is more than a yearly moment; it is a lifestyle of continually choosing to put God's mission first.

DISCUSSION

Starting Questions:

- What are some things people naturally treasure in life, and how do those things influence their choices?
- Have you ever had a moment when your priorities shifted because your heart was captured by something new or greater?

Exploring Questions:

- Looking at Matthew 6:21, how does treasure shape the direction of our heart and life?
- In Colossians 3:1–2, Paul instructs us to set our hearts on things above. What do you think this practically looks like in day-to-day life?
- Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and people. How does this form the foundation of God's mission for the church?
- In what ways does HFTM help us re-align our priorities with God's mission?

Action Question:

- What practical step can you take this week to “set your heart on God's mission”, whether in your time, finances, or relationships?

DEVOTION

As we begin this HFTM journey, take a moment to reflect: where is your treasure? Is your heart fully anchored in God's mission, or are there areas where He is calling you to re-align your focus? Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you about what matters most.

Heart For The Mission



Connect
Group
Study

Prayer Focus:

- Pray that God would re-align our hearts with His mission in this season.
- Pray for a fresh love for God and people to be stirred in every Connect Group.
- Ask God to give you courage to take a practical step this week in putting His mission first.



PART 2

Developing Purpose-Filled Jesus Followers

Part 2 of 5-part series: "Heart for the Mission"

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GROUNDING SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:43–45:

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One of the greatest desires of God's heart is that His people would grow into the fullness of who He created them to be. Following Jesus is not just about belief, but about transformation; becoming more like Him in character, purpose, and calling.

In this week's study, we will explore what it means to know Jesus deeply, to walk in His calling for our lives, and to live with bold faith. As we do, we will be reminded that discipleship is not a one-time event, but a lifelong journey of surrender and renewal.

KEY SCRIPTURES ****select your top 3 scriptures and questions to study effectively together****

- **Philippians 3:8–10** (NIV) says, *"What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."*
- **Jeremiah 29:11** (NIV) says, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"*
- **Isaiah 40:31** (NIV) says, *"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*



- **Romans 12:2** (NIV) says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
- **Joshua 1:9** (NIV) says, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”
- **Hebrews 4:12** (NIV) says, “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** (NIV) says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

DISCOVERY

When Paul writes in Philippians about knowing Christ, he is not speaking of head knowledge, but of a deep, personal, lived relationship. This relationship changes everything: how we view success, what we pursue, and where we find hope. Discipleship is therefore not about achieving perfection, but about continually drawing closer to Jesus and being transformed in His presence.

Jeremiah reminds us that God’s plans are not random; they are filled with hope and purpose. Often we can feel uncertain or weary in life’s journey but Isaiah assures us that those who put their hope in the Lord will find strength renewed. Transformation happens when we refuse to conform to worldly patterns, allowing God to reshape our thinking, courage and choices.

Discipleship is active. It requires courage (Joshua 1:9), it requires regular intake of God’s Word (Hebrews 4:12), and it results in genuine transformation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This is the heart of HFTM: that we would not simply attend church or participate in a campaign, but that we would be continually changed into people who live on mission with Jesus.

DISCUSSION

Starting Questions:

- What does “knowing Jesus deeply” look like to you personally?
- Can you think of a moment when your relationship with Jesus shifted from knowledge to deep personal experience?

Exploring Questions:

- Philippians 3:8–10 highlights knowing Christ above all else. Why is this difficult in a world full of competing priorities?
- Jeremiah 29:11 is often quoted - how does this promise encourage you in seasons of uncertainty?
- Isaiah 40:31 speaks of renewed strength. How have you experienced God giving you strength beyond your own?
- Romans 12:2 reminds us of transformation through the renewing of the mind. What practical steps help you renew your thinking in God’s truth?
- Joshua 1:9 calls us to courage. What area of your life requires fresh courage right now?

Heart For The Mission



Connect Group Study

- Hebrews 4:12 speaks about the power of God's Word. How have you experienced Scripture as "alive and active" in your life?
- According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, transformation in Christ makes us new creations. How does this truth impact the way we live on mission?

Action Question:

- What is one intentional decision you can make this week to grow as a purpose-filled follower of Jesus?

DEVOTION

God's desire is not only that we would believe in Him, but that we would be transformed to reflect Him. Discipleship is the process of learning to live like Jesus, to think like Jesus, and to love like Jesus. As we embrace this journey, our lives begin to carry the fragrance of Christ to the world around us.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for deeper intimacy with Jesus for every person in your Connect Group.
- Ask God for courage to live boldly in the calling He has placed on your life.
- Pray that the Word of God would come alive in new ways this week, bringing transformation.



PART 3

Building Healthy Church Communities

Part 3 of 5-part series: "Heart for the Mission"

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Over five weeks, we will explore what it means to live with kingdom vision, faith, and generosity as we prepare our hearts for this significant step of faith.

GROUNDING SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:43–45:

43 "A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need."

The Church is not a building or an event. It is a family, a body, and a community of believers brought together by Christ. A healthy church community is marked by love, unity, encouragement, and reconciliation.

In this week's study, we will reflect on what it means to belong, to strengthen one another, and to live as a people who embody the love of Jesus. As we grow in healthy relationships within the church, we become stronger witnesses to the world around us.

KEY SCRIPTURES ****select your top 3 scriptures and questions to study effectively together****

- **1 Corinthians 12:12–14** (NIV) says, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."
- **Romans 12:9–10** (NIV) says, "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
- **Galatians 6:2** (NIV) says, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** (NIV) says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
- **Colossians 3:13** (NIV) says, "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."



- **Hebrews 13:2** (NIV) says, “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”
- **Matthew 16:18** (NIV) says, “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

DISCOVERY

Paul uses the metaphor of a body to describe the church (1 Corinthians 12:12–14). Each part is unique, but all are essential to the whole. This imagery helps us understand that every believer carries a role and responsibility in building a healthy community. No one is insignificant, and unity comes through honoring each other’s contributions.

Romans 12 emphasizes genuine love, not surface-level politeness, but a deep devotion that values others above ourselves. Galatians 6 reminds us that the church is a place to share both joys and burdens, living out Christ’s love in practical ways. Encouragement (1 Thessalonians 5) and forgiveness (Colossians 3) are foundational practices that keep relationships strong. Without them, the body becomes fractured.

Hospitality (Hebrews 13) broadens the church’s embrace, ensuring that communities remain open and welcoming. Ultimately, Jesus Himself declared in Matthew 16 that He is building His Church. We are invited to partner with Him in creating communities that are strong, resilient, and radiant with His love.

DISCUSSION

Starting Questions:

- What has been your most life-giving experience of being part of a church community?
- Why do you think God designed us to live in community instead of in isolation?

Exploring Questions:

- 1 Corinthians 12:12–14 speaks about the church as one body. What does it mean for you personally to be “a part of the body”?
- Romans 12:9–10 challenges us to sincere love and honor. What are some ways we can put this into practice in our Connect Groups and church community?
- Galatians 6:2 reminds us to carry each other’s burdens. What does this look like practically, and what challenges can arise in doing this?
- Encouragement (1 Thessalonians 5:11) often feels small but can be powerful. Share a time when encouragement deeply impacted your life.
- Colossians 3:13 calls us to forgiveness. Why is forgiveness sometimes the hardest but most necessary ingredient in community?
- Hospitality (Hebrews 13:2) is more than hosting meals - it’s an attitude. How can we show this kind of hospitality in our groups, Sunday services, and daily lives?
- Matthew 16:18 assures us that Jesus is building His church. How does this truth give you confidence in the future of our community?

**Action Question:**

- What is one step you can take this week to strengthen the relationships within your Connect Group or church community?

DEVOTION

The church thrives when believers commit to building together in unity, love, and forgiveness. Healthy community doesn't happen by accident, it is cultivated through daily choices of encouragement, hospitality, and grace. As we carry one another's burdens and honor one another, the church becomes a place where God's presence is experienced and His mission is advanced.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for deeper unity and love within our Connect Groups and wider church.
- Ask God for a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation where relationships are strained.
- Pray that our community would shine as a welcoming, loving witness to the world.



PART 4

Creating Significant & Sustainable Social Impact

Part 4 of 5-part series: "Heart for the Mission"

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GROUNDING SCRIPTURE

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43 "A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need."

The mission of God is not only about personal transformation but also about transforming the world around us. As followers of Jesus, we are called to love our neighbors, serve the poor, seek justice, and live with compassion. When the church lives out this calling, it becomes a visible expression of God's kingdom on earth.

This week we will focus on how faith translates into tangible impact, how love compels action, and how our daily lives can be instruments of justice and mercy.

KEY SCRIPTURES ***select your top 3 scriptures and questions to study effectively together***

- **Mark 12:30–31** (NIV) says, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."
- **Matthew 25:35–36** (NIV) says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."
- **Micah 6:8** (NIV) says, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
- **Luke 10:33–34** (NIV) says, "But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him."



- **Matthew 5:13–16** (NIV) says, “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
- **Proverbs 19:17** (NIV) says, “Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.”
- **John 17:18** (NIV) says, “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”

DISCOVERY

The Bible consistently emphasizes that true love for God overflows into love for others. Mark 12 reminds us that the greatest commandment is inseparable from loving our neighbors. Jesus’ parable in Matthew 25 points us toward practical, sacrificial service - feeding the hungry, clothing the needy, and visiting the sick and imprisoned. These are not optional extras but the very heart of what it means to follow Him.

Micah 6:8 offers a powerful summary of God’s expectations: **justice, mercy, and humility**. This echoes through the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10), where compassion leads to costly, personal involvement. Jesus also describes His followers as salt and light in Matthew 5, meaning our presence should preserve goodness and shine God’s truth into society. Proverbs 19 reminds us that generosity toward the poor is an offering to the Lord Himself, and John 17 concludes with the commissioning of believers to be sent into the world with the same mission that God gave Jesus.

When the church lives in this rhythm of love, compassion, justice, and service, it becomes a force of transformation in the world.

DISCUSSION

Starting Questions:

- When you think of the phrase “significant & sustainable social impact,” what comes to mind?
- Can you recall a time when someone’s practical act of kindness made a lasting impression on you?

Exploring Questions:

- Mark 12:30–31 commands us to love God and love people. How do these two loves work together rather than separately?
- Matthew 25:35–36 shows Jesus identifying with the poor and marginalized. How does this shape the way we see serving others?
- Micah 6:8 speaks about justice, mercy, and humility. Which of these three feels the most challenging for you personally, and why?
- In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:33–34), the Samaritan’s compassion led to action. What barriers sometimes stop us from turning compassion into action?
- Jesus calls us the salt and light of the earth (Matthew 5:13–16). What are some practical ways our group can be “salt and light” in our community?

Heart For The Mission



Connect Group Study

- Proverbs 19:17 says kindness to the poor is like lending to the Lord. How does this verse change your perspective on generosity?
- John 17:18 reminds us we are sent into the world. Where do you sense God is sending you (or your group) to make an impact right now?

Action Question:

- As a Connect Group, what is one practical step we can take together this month to demonstrate love, justice, or mercy in our local community?

DEVOTION

Our faith was never meant to be private or confined to Sundays; it is a call to live in ways that bring God's kingdom into every part of society. To love our neighbor, to serve the poor, to act with justice, and to live with mercy is to reflect the very heart of Jesus. A church that embodies these values becomes a powerful testimony of God's love to the world.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for God to open our eyes to the needs around us and give us hearts of compassion.
- Ask for courage to step out in justice and mercy, even when it requires sacrifice.
- Pray that our church would be known in our city for its love, generosity, and service to others.



PART 5

Faith in Action: Stepping Boldly into the Future

Part 5 of 5-part series: "Heart for the Mission"

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Faith is not passive; it is bold, active, and future-facing. God calls His people to trust Him, step out courageously, and live with eternal purpose. One way we can step out in faith as we look to the future of our church is to bring an offering. It is a holy moment where we have the opportunity to give with expectation - asking for God's favour on our church and the work He is calling us as a community to accomplish.

As we conclude our Heart for the Mission series, we recognize that our obedience today can shape generations tomorrow. This week's study centers on promises, sacrifice, vision, and the commissioning of the church to boldly carry God's mission forward.

KEY SCRIPTURES ***select your top 3 scriptures and questions to study effectively together***

- **2 Corinthians 1:20** (NIV) says, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God."
- **Mark 11:23–24** (NIV) says, "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."
- **Luke 21:1–4** (NIV) says, "As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'Truly I tell you,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'"



- **Psalm 37:5** (NIV) says, “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.”
- **1 Corinthians 3:9** (NIV) says, “For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”
- **Psalm 78:4** (NIV) says, “We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.”
- **Matthew 6:19–21** (NIV) says, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- **Matthew 28:18–20** (NIV) says, “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

DISCOVERY

Faith always looks forward. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 1 that every promise God has spoken finds its fulfillment in Jesus, giving us confidence to step boldly into His plans. Jesus’ words in Mark 11 lift our expectations, faith moves mountains when rooted in belief and prayer. Luke 21 contrasts worldly abundance with sacrificial generosity, showing us that God values the heart over the size of the gift.

Psalm 37:5 calls us to commit our future to God’s hands, trusting His direction. As 1 Corinthians 3:9 says, we are co-workers with God, He graciously invites us into His mission. This mission doesn’t stop with us; Psalm 78 urges us to pass the faith to future generations. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6 that our ultimate reward is eternal, not earthly, and concludes with the Great Commission in Matthew 28: the call to go, make disciples, and carry the message of hope to the ends of the earth.

This is not just about what God has done but about what He is calling us into, a life of bold, active faith with eternal impact.

DISCUSSION

Starting Questions:

- What does “bold faith” look like to you personally?
- Who in your life has inspired you by the way they stepped out in faith?

Exploring Questions:

- 2 Corinthians 1:20 reminds us of God’s promises in Christ. Which promise of God do you need to hold onto in this season?
- Jesus says in Mark 11 that faith can move mountains. What “mountains” in your life or community are you believing in God to move?
- In Luke 21:1–4, the widow gave sacrificially. What does sacrificial giving (not just financial) look like for us today?
- Psalm 37:5 calls us to commit our way to the Lord. How do we practically entrust our future to Him in decisions and planning?



- 1 Corinthians 3:9 describes us as co-workers with God. How does this partnership shape the way we see our role in His mission?
- Psalm 78:4 emphasizes passing faith to the next generation. How can our Connect Group be intentional in impacting those younger than us?
- Matthew 6:19–21 talks about eternal treasure. What adjustments might you need to make to invest more in eternal things?
- The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20) is both a command and a promise. What is one way you can personally participate in this mission right now?

Action Question:

- As a group, what bold step of faith can we take together in response to God's mission?

DEVOTION

God has placed us in this time and place not by accident but for purpose. The call of faith is not only to believe but to act, to step boldly into the future, knowing that God is faithful to His promises. Our sacrifices, our generosity, our prayers, and our obedience are seeds that will bear fruit for generations to come. Jesus' final words to His disciples remind us of our true mission: to make disciples of all nations, confident that He is with us always.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for courage to step into bold faith in this next season.
- Ask God to show you what "sacrificial giving" looks like in your own life.
- Pray that our church would faithfully carry the mission of Jesus to the next generation and beyond.
- Thank God for His promises, His presence, and His power at work in us as we move forward.