COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

MAIN POINT

When we are made new in Christ that newness is lived out in real, everyday life change.

INTRODUCTION

What are some of your favorite things to buy new or to replace? New clothes? New shoes? New electronics? New home appliances?

What makes us enjoy "newness" so much?

A remodeled kitchen. A freshly painted bedroom. A refurbished piece of furniture. These are examples of things that, in a way, have been made new. The result of these refinishing projects brings great joy and satisfaction. Similarly, we who have faith in Christ have been made new. We are new creations. And in light of our salvation, we are called to live in a new way that lines up with our new life in Christ.

DISCUSSION

> READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17; EPHESIANS 4:22-24.

Why is it significant that you are (present tense) a new creation? In what sense are you a new creation? How does this impact your opportunity for developing God-honoring habits?

How does it change your perspective of pursuing holiness and godliness to know that you already are a new creation in Christ instead of trying to become a new creation?

How does this reality change your approach to doing good and practicing righteousness?

What does it mean to put off your old self? How is this connected to your being a new creation in Christ?

What is our role in this process? How is that related to our daily habits?

Where do you have trouble recognizing the things that belong to your former way of life, before Christ?

What role does the community of the church play in reminding one another of those former things?

Look at Ephesians 4:32. According to this verse, what should be the primary motivation for pursuing holy (God-honoring) living?

What does the world around us say about the way that we should live? In what ways could your life or your family's lives better contrast those practices?

APPLICATION

What is God calling you to put off today? What is He calling you to put on? How will you respond?