

Something New: Small Group Guide

May 24, 2026

Icebreaker Question: What's one significant ending you've experienced recently (graduation, job change, season of life, etc.)? How did you feel about it at the time?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **From Justice to Mercy:** God surprises us by extending mercy when we deserve justice
 2. **A Way Where There's No Way:** God makes pathways through impossible circumstances
 3. **Great Assurance and Profound Purpose:** We are God's chosen people, formed to proclaim His praise
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Discussion Questions

Part 1: Understanding Endings and Beginnings

Q1: The pastor mentioned that May is a month full of endings. What emotions typically accompany endings in your life? Why do you think endings can be so difficult?

Q2: Read Isaiah 43:18-19. Why do you think God tells His people to "forget the former things" and not "dwell on the past"? What's the difference between learning from the past and living in it?

Q3: How does the biblical view of endings leading to new beginnings differ from cultural ideas like "good luck charms" or just hoping things work out?

Part 2: From Justice to Mercy

Q4: The Israelites were in Babylon because of their own rebellion, yet God promised to rescue them. What does this teach us about God's character?

Q5: The story of the criminal on the cross illustrates radical mercy. Why is it sometimes hard for us to accept that salvation is purely by mercy and not by our own efforts or qualifications?

Q6: The pastor asked: "If we have received such great mercy, should we not also extend that mercy to those who have wronged us?" Who in your life might God be calling you to extend mercy toward?

Part 3: A Way Where There's No Way

Q7: Read Isaiah 43:16-17 and 43:19. God reminded Israel of the Red Sea crossing before promising a new deliverance. Why is remembering God's past faithfulness important when facing current impossibilities?

Q8: The pastor shared this statement: "You have seen too much for too long to believe so little." Reflect on your own history with God. What has He brought you through that should increase your faith for current challenges?

Q9: Where in your life right now do you see "no way"? How might God be inviting you to trust Him to make a way through that situation?

Part 4: Assurance and Purpose

Q10: Read Isaiah 43:21. What does it mean to you personally that you are part of "the people I formed for myself"?

Q11: Isaiah 43:2 promises God's presence through deep waters, rushing rivers, and fire—but doesn't promise we won't go through them. How does this realistic promise differ from a "health and wealth gospel"? Why is this actually more comforting?

Q12: The sermon ended by pointing to Jesus as "the best new thing" God ever did. How does the reality that God made you a "new creation in Christ" give you confidence that He will continue to do new things in your life?

Prayer Time

Popcorn Prayer: Go around the circle and have each person pray a one-sentence prayer about the "something new" they're asking God to do.

Closing Prayer: Have one person close by praying:

- For the group to release past guilt and embrace God's mercy
- For faith to trust God in impossible circumstances
- For eyes to see the new things God is doing
- For the group to proclaim God's praise in their daily lives