



Small Group Guide: The Threshold Covenant: Living as a New Creation

Overview

This guide is designed to help your group explore the sermon's central themes: the threshold covenant as a framework for understanding our relationship with God, what it means to cede ownership of our lives to him, and how the Holy Spirit empowers us to live as new creation people. Use the questions and applications below to spark honest conversation and personal reflection.

Key Takeaways

- The threshold covenant is an ancient practice of sealing loyalty, protection, and belonging at a doorway. The cross of Jesus Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of this covenant.
- When we invite Christ into our lives, we are ceding the deed of ownership of our soul and spirit to him. This is not a loss but a coming into fuller identity.
- Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Because God dwells in us, we are, in a very real sense, his embassy in a foreign land.
- The new and living way described in Hebrews is not a religious system. It is the original way, walking side by side with God, listening to his voice, and responding out of love rather than obligation.

- The Holy Spirit empowers our governance of spirit, soul, and body, not so we can earn God's love, but because his love is already unconditionally present and we are aligning ourselves to what is already true.
 - Isolation from the household of God weakens us. Staying connected to the body of Christ is part of how the covenant functions in our lives.
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Discussion Questions

Opening (Choose one to get the conversation started)

1. Think about a time you crossed into a place where you clearly did not belong, perhaps a restricted area, someone else's property, or a space where you had not been invited. What did that feel like? How does that experience help you understand the concept of a covenant boundary?
 2. The pastor described sensing the kindness of the Lord as a starting point for the message. How would you describe the role of God's kindness in your own journey of faith? Has kindness ever been the thing that moved you toward repentance or deeper surrender?
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The Threshold Covenant

1. The pastor used the example of Julian Assange living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London. The embassy was foreign soil, yet it provided protection, provision, and accountability. How does this illustration change or deepen the way you think about being filled with the Holy Spirit and being called God's temple?
2. The pastor described how he drove past his future home daily during the closing period but never crossed the property line without permission. He said: "When the Father, through his Holy Spirit, enters your life, you are ceding the deed of ownership of your own soul and spirit to him." What does it look like practically to cede that deed in your daily life? Are there areas where you have not yet fully handed over ownership?
3. In Hebrews, the writer uses the image of trampling on the blood of the covenant to describe a serious rejection of Christ's authority. The pastor explained that in the ancient world, stepping on the threshold was an act of contempt, a way of saying the lord of the house has no authority here. Have

you ever found yourself, even unintentionally, reclaiming the deed of your own life? What brought you back?

Governance and the Holy Spirit

1. The pastor defined governance as "the faithful use of authority and power to work towards God's divine order, heal human brokenness, and advance justice and love across creation." He applied this first to how we govern our own spirit, soul, and body. What does self-governance rooted in love rather than obligation look like in your everyday life? Where do you find it most difficult?
 2. The pastor drew a clear distinction between religious obligation and relational motivation, saying that his motivation to follow God is not fear but love. Where do you find yourself on that spectrum right now? What has shaped your primary motivation in your walk with God?
 3. The Holy Spirit is described as the one who empowers governance, stirs imagination, and produces an intuitive longing to be known by God and to know him. When have you most strongly felt that stirring? What were the circumstances, and how did you respond?
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Belonging and the Body

1. The pastor said that isolation causes people to lose vision and become weak. He referenced visiting people in prisons in the Philippines and observing that what they most needed was simply to know they were not alone. How does your connection to this community of faith protect you from isolation? Is there someone in your group or church who may be drifting from the household right now?
2. The pastor described the new and living way as the original way, walking with God without a religious system mediating the relationship, the way Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses did. What practices or habits help you stay in that original, relational posture with God rather than slipping into a performance-based approach?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to practice individually or as a group before your next meeting.

Morning and Evening Prayer of Surrender Begin or end each day this week with a simple prayer of acknowledgment. Thank God that you belong to him, ask if there is anything in your attitudes or actions that needs to be adjusted, and express gratitude for specific things. This is not a formula but a posture of staying in the household.

Identify a Kink in the Flow The pastor referenced a prior message about things that kink up the flow of the Spirit in our lives. Spend time this week in honest reflection. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one area, whether a thought pattern, a habit, a relationship dynamic, or an unresolved wound, that may be restricting the flow of his presence in your life. Bring it to God and, if appropriate, to a trusted person in your group.

Embassy Reflection Meditate on the idea that wherever you go this week, you carry the presence of God with you as his embassy in a foreign land. Before you enter your workplace, your home, a difficult conversation, or a public space, pause and acknowledge: the kingdom of God is present here because I am here. Notice how this awareness changes the way you engage.

Reconnect with Someone Who Has Drifted If someone comes to mind who has stepped away from the body of Christ or from your community specifically, reach out to them this week. Not to lecture or correct, but simply to say: I see you, and you are not alone.

Lectio Divina with Hebrews 10:19-22 As a group or individually, read the passage from Hebrews that the pastor referenced describing the new and living way. Read it slowly, three times. After each reading, sit in silence for two to three minutes. Notice what word or phrase stays with you. Let that become the starting point for your prayer.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying together around these three themes drawn from the sermon:

- Gratitude that God has taken responsibility for our lives through the covenant established in Christ
- Surrender of any area where group members sense they have been reclaiming the deed of their own lives
- Intercession for those in your community who are isolated from the household of God

Looking Ahead

The pastor indicated that upcoming weeks will explore what it looks like practically to live as new creation people, including how this identity shapes our families, our governance of ourselves, and our corporate life together. Come to your next group meeting ready to share one way you noticed the threshold covenant reality at work in your life during the week.