



Small Group Guide: Extreme Makeover

Sermon by John Leach | New Life Assembly

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin your group time by inviting God's presence and asking Him to open hearts and minds to receive what He wants to teach through this discussion.

Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Question: What's one "new thing" you received or acquired recently (Christmas gift, purchase, etc.)? Did it bring you the satisfaction you expected?

Key Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore if anyone is in Christ Jesus, that is, in other words, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior, He is a new creature, reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit."

Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart. And do not rely on your own insight or understanding."

Main Takeaways

1. External Changes vs. Internal Transformation

We constantly seek new things (phones, clothes, looks), but what we truly need is a new life that only comes through Christ. The change God offers is internal, not external.

2. We Are New Creations, Not Renovations

Jesus doesn't renovate the old building—He tears it down and builds something completely new. We're not improved versions of ourselves; we're brand new creations.

3. Living with Purpose as Christ's Ambassadors

As believers, we have a lifetime goal: to represent Christ and share the message of reconciliation with others wherever we go.

4. God Finishes What He Starts

Unlike unfinished works of art, God completes the transformation He begins in us. The process may be long and painful, but He doesn't give up on us.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: The Need for Internal Change (15 minutes)

1. John shared his dramatic testimony of instant transformation from addiction and worldly living. While not everyone has such a dramatic conversion story, how have you experienced God's transforming power in your life?
2. The sermon stated: "We can change our clothes to a different look, but it's still me." What are some external changes people make hoping to find fulfillment? Why do these ultimately fall short?
3. Read John 10:10. What's the difference between merely "living" and experiencing the "abundant life" Jesus promises?

Section 2: Understanding Our New Identity (15 minutes)

1. John explained that being "born again" means having a new boss, a fresh existence, not just a renovation. What are some practical differences between thinking of yourself as "renovated" versus "brand new"?
2. The sermon mentioned we receive a new family, new values, new motivations, and new possessions in Christ. Which of these has been most evident or meaningful in your spiritual journey?
3. Colossians 3:9-10 talks about putting away old behaviors. What are some "old clothes" (behaviors, attitudes, thought patterns) that God has been asking you to take off? What new ones is He asking you to put

on?

Section 3: Living with Purpose (15 minutes)

1. John shared the story of three stonemasons—one chipping stone, one building a wall, one building a church. How would you describe your current perspective on your daily work and activities? Are you just "chipping stone" or building something eternal?
2. The sermon emphasized: "If I don't go to work, then the church has failed as far as these men are concerned." How does this perspective change the way you view your workplace, neighborhood, or social circles?
3. What does it practically look like to be "Christ's ambassador" in your specific context (workplace, family, community)?

Section 4: Staying Connected to Christ (10 minutes)

1. John emphasized the importance of not giving up meeting together and staying in constant communication with Christ. How would you honestly assess your current spiritual disciplines (church attendance, prayer, Bible reading, fellowship)?
2. C.S. Lewis said, "All that is not eternal is eternally useless." How does this statement challenge or encourage you in how you spend your time and energy?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose one or more):

Option 1: Share Your Story Identify one person in your sphere of influence who doesn't know Jesus. Pray for an opportunity this week to share what God has done in your life (your "extreme makeover" story).

Option 2: Evaluate Your Perspective Take inventory of your weekly activities. Ask yourself: "Am I just chipping stone, or am I building something eternal?" Make one adjustment to align your activities with eternal purposes.

Option 3: Deepen Your Communication with Christ Commit to one specific spiritual discipline this week:

- Read one chapter of the Bible daily
- Spend 10 minutes in prayer each morning

- Journal about what God is teaching you
- Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6

Option 4: Encourage Someone's Transformation Think of someone in your church or life who is experiencing God's transformation. Send them a note, text, or have a conversation encouraging them in their journey.

Reflection Questions for Journaling

- What specific area of my life needs God's "extreme makeover" right now?
- Am I trying to renovate myself, or am I allowing God to make me completely new?
- How can I better represent Christ as His ambassador this week?
- What "old life" patterns am I still holding onto that God wants to remove?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for the transformation He's already done in group members' lives
- Ask for continued work of the Holy Spirit to complete what He's started
- Pray for opportunities to share the gospel as Christ's ambassadors
- Commit to trusting God completely (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Leader Notes

- **Be sensitive:** Not everyone has a dramatic conversion story like John's. Affirm that all testimonies of God's grace are valuable.
- **Encourage vulnerability:** Create a safe space for people to share struggles with old patterns or behaviors.
- **Celebrate transformation:** Take time to acknowledge and celebrate the changes God has made in group members' lives.
- **Keep it practical:** Help the group move from discussion to action with specific, achievable applications.

Memory Verse for the Week: *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)