



RENOVATE: BUILDING A LIFE WITH GOD

“Inviting Others To Come Home”

Life Group Study

Week of October 10, 2021

Opening Prayer for Group Meeting

Creator God,

We come together, O Holy One, to encounter you in a story of renovation. As spiritual houses, we know we are in need of rebuilding our broken places so we can respond to your call. Guide us as we seek to open ourselves more fully to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the foundation of all life, we pray.

Amen.

Connect

Welcome everyone and check in.

Opening

Opening prayer

Show video



Dwelling in the Word

Read Psalm 137:1, 5-6

What do you hear in this passage?

Read Nehemiah 7:5a, 8:6

What do you hear in this passage?

Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted up their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

Nehemiah 8:6

Discussion Groups (online/in person)

Sharing Excitement With Others

Think of a time when you completed a big task or project:

- How did it feel to finish it?
- Did the process go exactly as you had anticipated?
- Did this add or detract to your excitement?
- Who did you want to invite to share your excitement?
- What did this gathering look like and feel like?

Connecting Our Stories

Pastor Armstrong discusses a time when he went to Ocean Springs, Mississippi as part of a disaster relief team following Hurricane Katrina. He relates the story of Elaina, the woman who lived in the house where Pastor Armstrong was volunteering. He describes the devastation, and the extreme measures Elaina took to stay alive to be rescued. As the team removed damaged/destroyed items from the house, they set aside a small pile of items that Elaina might want to keep. Pastor Armstrong brought these items to her for her inspection, and through her explanation of each item, he learns part of her story. By learning her personal story and seeing these physical reminders of that story, Pastor Armstrong gets to know Elaina much better than he had if he had just come to clean out her destroyed home without conversing with her.

In what way does having a more personal connection with others add to the sense of excitement and joy of sharing the invitation to celebrate the finished project?



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How to Use This Study Guide to lead a Group Discussion

Read through all of the questions and choose the ones most relevant to your group. We include more than enough ideas for the times suggested. Please do not feel the need to “cover every question.” It works better to focus your time on the items that best fit your group’s needs.

Renovation

How has your spiritual house been tested this past year and a half?

How might you share your story of spiritual renovation with others?

How might you make yourself available to listen to the story of someone else’s spiritual renovation?

Reflection

- God remembers you - God has not forgotten you and will not forget you
- God remembers all you have been through
- Your spiritual renovation is not just about God fixing your shutters, it is about God coming to live in you.
- Its about you coming home, and God already being there, waiting to welcome you and all who celebrate with you

Closing Prayer

Lift us the prayers based off the conversation and study. What prayers might we share together as a group?

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

(refrain)

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, give thanks to the risen Lord;

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, give praise to his name;

- 1) Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the king of creation. *(refrain)*
- 2) Spread the good news over all the earth; Jesus has died and has risen. *(refrain)*
- 3) We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever. *(refrain)*
- 4) God has proclaimed the just reward; life for all people, alleluia. *(refrain)*
- 5) Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior. *(refrain)*

