



# RENOVATE: BUILDING A LIFE WITH GOD

"The Big Reveal"

Life Group Study

Week of October 17, 2021

## Opening Prayer for Group Meeting

Creator and renewing God,

We acknowledge that we are your works in progress. Yet we seek to be a part of your plan, not only for our own ongoing renovations, but for the renewal of the cosmos. Guide in us as we consider what you would have us do. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

### Connect

Welcome everyone and check in.

### Opening

Opening prayer

Show video: Episode 6



### Dwelling in the Word

Read Leviticus 23:39-43

What do you hear in this passage?

Read Nehemiah 8:14-17

What do you hear in this passage?

*They found written in the Law, which the Lord had commanded to Moses, that the Israelites were to live in temporary shelters during the festival of the seventh month.*

*Nehemiah 8:14*

### Discussion Groups (online/in person)

### Connecting Our Stories

In this chapter, we learn about the Jewish observance of the Festival of Booths, also known as "Sukkot" in Hebrew. It is a remembrance of God's faithfulness, bringing the Hebrew people out of their centuries of slavery in Egypt, and how the people lived in tents during their time of wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. The people remember that through it all, God provided for them. In Leviticus 23:39-43 we read about God's command that the people remember this time in their history each year by observing this festival and living in tents for one week.

- What are some of your family traditions that help you remember your past?
- What are some church traditions that help us remember our past as God's people?
- Why is it important to set aside time for these opportunities to remember?

### The Big Reveal

The wall around Jerusalem had finally been built. With the leadership and guidance of Nehemiah, a wall that had been destroyed and left in ruins for 150 years had been built back new, stronger and better than before. It was a tremendous accomplishment. The rebuilding of the wall symbolized an important stage of the Jewish people's return to their homeland, and gave them a sense of security and reassurance for their present and future lives. They were home!

And yet, the first thing that they do when they finish their huge renovation project is to go live in tents. Why do you think they would do such a strange thing? Why not just enjoy their new wall and move into their homes?



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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.

## Reflection

Consider the following three sentences:

- God turns our hearts to where we have been.
- God calls upon us to celebrate the present goodness.
- God will turn our hearts to where we are going

What do each of three sentences mean to you?

What do they say when read collectively together?

## Renovation

As we look back upon this Renovation study, consider these questions:

- Where in my spiritual house can I recognize that God has renovated my past life?
- Where in my spiritual house can I detect that the renovating work of God is at work now?
- Where in my spiritual house is there still work to be done?
- What are some things I can do to help God move that work forward?

## Closing Prayer

*Great and mighty and awesome God, we give thanks that you never give up on us! Grant that we may be receptive to your work of continuing redemption, trusting that we may be rebuilt into spiritual houses worthy of your indwelling. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Word, who became flesh and dwelt among us. Amen.*



## Great Is Thy Faithfulness



Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

