



## Week 4 - A Vision for Renewal

December 27, 2020

### Group Discussion Guide

#### Begin with prayer (5 minutes)

This week gather together as a community and have someone pray, asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your time together.

#### Read this overview (1 minute)

It's always good to look forward and hope for clarity (as we started in 2020), but in reality, it's typically looking back that we see with the greatest clarity. Using Isaiah, we'll look at the story of God's people in crisis and calamity and how God turns their tragedy (exile) into blessing (purification/refining). Through the eyes of faith, God refocuses our vision to see compassion, justice, hope, joy, and renewal.

This week we're focusing in on having a vision of renewal.

#### Scripture + Debrief in small groups (40 minutes)

Split your group into smaller groups to read the following Scriptures and go through some of these questions:

- What resonated with you from this weekend's message? What was something new you learned? What challenged you?
- **Read Isaiah 53:4-6; Isaiah 61:4-1; Luke 4:16-21.** What do these passages tell you about Israel's plight, God's stance on renewal, and how God plans to bring renewal to his people?
- **Read Romans 8:18-25.** What, according to these verses, is the scope of renewal? How do these verses impact your view of renewal?
- As you look back over 2020, where was renewal needed in your own life?
- As you look forward into 2021, where would you like to see renewal come in your life?
- In his sermon, Eric mentioned that, "Renewal is available to us every day if we make Jesus our highest priority." In what ways have you seen this to be true in your life? In what ways has *not* focusing on Jesus led to the opposite of renewal in your life (chaos, defilement, or disintegration)?
- In what ways did you contribute to renewal's opposite – chaos, defilement, disintegration – this year (think about your relationships, your interior world, etc.)? What do you need to do practically to bring about renewal in those areas?

- **Read Revelation 21:1-5.** In these verses, Jesus says he is “making all things new.” Does this feel like a pipedream to you or like it’s a world away? Or does Jesus’ promise feel certain and close? Explain.

### **Transition back to one large group (20 minutes)**

Ask a few questions about each person’s time in their smaller groups:

- Which questions did you discuss in your smaller groups? What were some the things that came from your smaller group discussions?
- How can we as individuals and as a group practice compassion?

### **Finish with prayer (10 minutes)**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone’s prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.