

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflection of 2019 Pastor Jon Cobler | January 5th, 2020

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

**“Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.**

**19 Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

**I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.”**

Isaiah 43:18-19

This week, Pastor Jon reflected on what God has done in 2019, and encouraged us to look forward to and prepare our hearts for 2020. We can do this by taking the time to assess and evaluate and prayerfully enter into what God has next. Don't let yesterday's experience dictate tomorrow. Sometimes, especially as we get older, we can set our own expectations for what comes next; often putting ourselves in a rut and ending up with a rather “small container.”

But, it's the nature of God to always be doing something new. God is never stuck in our yesterdays. We all have obstacles that can be broken through. The verse in Isaiah reminds us of this fact, but do we believe it? If we don't believe it, then what will threaten to show up? Every hopeful word will only reinforce our own negativity. But no matter what our circumstances, we are not limited to a disabled past.

We can start each year intentionally, and that's what Renew week can set us up for. There will be different speakers each night of the week. It's a wonderful opportunity to listen to what the Lord is saying for your new year. If we put in the time and energy, we can be confident God will speak.

Pastor Jon went on to share a bit of his own personal reflections of 2019.

1. If was a year of personal growth in his marriage with Fawn, which surfaced through conflict at times of some very deeply rooted issues. Not uncommon to every marriage, God brought about a great connection that was waiting on the other side of this conflict. Fawn also had a great year of preaching in 2019.

2. At Living Water, it was a year of moving forward with last year's word; “Don't miss this Moment.” Many rose up to this word, and there were many stories of healing, rooted groups, life group and a greater evidence of true worship in the corporate church body. Jon reminded us that worship is always transformational and a pathway to His presence.

In the corporate body, we can have unity in diversity and form deep relationships with people that initially may not be our preference.

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3. 2019 also brought the faithfulness of God in the midst of Jon's father's passing. Within this struggle, Jon reminded us that God never wastes our times of struggling. As we enter 2020, we know that God's word will sustain us in any difficulty. The first place we should go for hope and perspective is the bible. We can trust the Lord to anchor us to a word from scripture for 2020.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you one to dwell on things of the past and stay in a rut? Or do you look ahead to the new things God is doing in your life? Reflect on the Isaiah scripture and share where you are at. What are ways we can lean in and perceive the new things the Lord wants to do?
2. What often shows up in our lives if we don't believe that God can and will do a new thing?
3. Share a time in your life when you felt tangled to a disabled past, but the Lord broke through and you had a new beginning.
4. If you went to Renew week last year, can you share something the Lord spoke to you during that week?
5. Reflect and share about your 2019, and the good things that happened, and the struggles too.
6. What word has the Lord anchored to you for 2020?