

Key Scripture

¹¹Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹²We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin^[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2nd Corinthians 5:11-21

Search for the “Renewal Church Denver” app or “St. John’s Denver” app in your app store. More of God’s truth all week long at renewaldenver.tv and sjdenver.tv

Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- What are some New Year’s resolutions you have already broken so far? Ready to give up or are you going to give it another go?
- What does it feel like to get something brand new? The touch, the look, they smell, what is special about it?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read 2nd Corinthians 5:11-21. What does it mean to be new here?
 - How was Everything made new?
- Read Isaiah 43:18-19 what did God say we are to do with the old way of things? What old ways do you tend to hang on to?
- What frees us and what imprisons us?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- Do you want a refresh on something? What do you need to let go of to accept how you have been made new by Jesus?
- Have you been so compelled by Christ’s love to do something out of character for you? How? And why?
- Is it weird or strange to think of yourself as the righteousness of God? What does that really mean?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- When you clean out the old it make room for the new, what will the new look like for you?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What’s a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How’s your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.