



Small Group Discussion Guide: The New Thing

Series: Root to Fruit | Scripture: Isaiah 43:16–19, Philippians 3:13–14

Icebreaker

The "New" Itch: What is one "new" thing you've bought or experienced recently (a gadget, a restaurant, a clothing trend) that actually lived up to the hype? Why do you think we are so captivated by "newness"?

Part 1: Moving Beyond the Old

Read Isaiah 43:16–19

1. The Context of Power: In verses 16–17, Isaiah reminds the people of the Exodus (making a way in the sea). Why is it important to remember God's past miracles?
2. The Paradox of Memory: The sermon mentioned that "remembering not" doesn't mean having amnesia, but rather not letting the past eclipse the future. Is there a "former thing" (either a past failure or a past success) that you are holding onto so tightly that it's hard to see what God is doing today?
3. Celebrating Tribes: Looking at our church's 8-year history (103 baptisms, 210 adults completed Rooted, \$400k for missions, etc), which of these "past mercies" encourages you the most as we enter this groundbreaking season?

Part 2: The Direction of Grace

Read Philippians 3:13–14

1. Forward vs. Backward: The sermon noted that God leads us ahead while the enemy pursues from behind. When you feel "pulled back," what does that usually look like for you? (e.g., shame, old habits, or "the way we've always done it"?)
2. Straining Forward: Paul uses the language of an athlete "straining" toward the goal. In this season of our church's growth (Down, Up, Out), what does it look like for you personally to "press on" toward the goal?

Part 3: Provision in the Desert

Read Isaiah 44:3–4 and John 7:38

1. The Desert Journey: God promises to make "rivers in the desert." Deserts are often places of transition and testing. If you feel like you are in a "desert" season right now, how does the promise of the Holy Spirit as "living water" change your perspective?
2. From Root to Fruit: We are currently in the "Down" phase (preparing soil, taking root).
 - Down: How are you preparing your own "soil" to receive what God is planting?
 - Up: Where do you see a need for more "systems or support" in your spiritual life?
 - Out: Who in your life needs to experience the "harvest" of God's kingdom?

Prayer Focus

- For the Church: Pray for the construction process and that we would remain missionally aligned as we move from "Root to Fruit."
- For the Individual: Ask God to reveal the "new thing" He is springing forth in each person's life and for the courage to forget what is behind.

Rally Cry: "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)