



# The Z Retreat 2025

December 5-7, 2025



# **“NEW WINE, NEW MIND:** The Essential Openness for Effective Ministry Presentation”

“Besides, who would patch **old** clothing with **new** cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before. **17**“And no one puts **new wine** into **old wineskins**. For the **old skins** would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. **New wine** is stored in **new** wineskins so that both are preserved.” (Matthew 16-17)

# Ice Breaker:

**What is something you used to love, but is now OUTDATED?**



# Lesson Objectives:

- Understand the biblical principle behind *old wineskins* and *new wineskins*.
- Identify areas of ministry where closed-mindedness has created limitations.
- Learn how openness enhances creativity, relevance, and spiritual effectiveness.
- Practice developing fresh approaches to ministry presentation (sermons, worship, outreach, creativity).
- Commit to a mindset of continuous renewal in thought and practice.

# OLD VS NEW

## Old Wine Skins= Old Mindsets

- Rigid traditions
- “We’ve always done it this way” thinking
- Familiarity
- Comfort
- Fear of change
- Arrogance (“Our way is the only right way”)
- Past success (the biggest enemy of future success)

## New Wineskins= Open Mindsets

- Openness
- Curiosity
- Creativity
- Humility
- Willingness to experiment
- A learner’s posture

# Why Openness is Essential

## What Happens when:

- **People change — ministry must adjust.**
- **Culture shifts — communication shifts.**
- **Technology advances — engagement advances.**
- **Different generations respond differently.**
- **Relevance requires revelation plus creativity.**
- **Closed minds always create closed ministries.**

## Signs of Old Wineskins

- “That won’t work here.”
- “We tried that once.”
- “Our church isn’t used to that.”
- No experimentation, no innovation.
- Presentations feel predictable, stale, repetitive.
- No new leaders emerging.
- Ministry becomes maintenance instead of mission.

# Jesus' Warning

**According to Matthew 9:17**

If you don't update the wineskin, you **lose both**:

You lose the new wine (fresh potential)

You lose the wineskin (existing structure collapses)

This is why openness is not optional — it's spiritual stewardship.



# New Wine Skin Challenge

## Four Big Groups: Mix the Teams

### Instructions:

Each group must take one existing ministry presentation

You must **design a version 2.0** — a “new wineskin remix.”

### Example prompts:

“Turn a traditional Bible study into something Gen Z would love.”

“Create a sermon support activity that uses modern storytelling techniques.”

“Reimagine a worship experience considering this generation’s young believers.”

### Presentation:

Each group explains:

What the “old wineskin” aspect was

What they changed

Why the “new wine” approach is more effective today