



Today's Church
Tomorrow's Church

LIFEGroup Study Guide

Celebrating

140 Years at St. John's 2 Years at Renewal

Key Scripture

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." - Matthew 5:14 (ESV)

"18 ...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

– Matthew 16:18-19 (ESV)

"42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles." - Acts 2:42-43 (ESV)

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind... – Romans 12:2a (ESV)

"4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." - Romans 12:4-5

"5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." – Romans 15:5-6 (ESV)

*"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"
– Ephesians 5:25 (ESV)*

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." – Colossians 3:16 (ESV)

"he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" – Titus 3:5 (ESV)

"24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..."

– Hebrews 10:24-25a (ESV)

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)

- How did you first get connected to St. John's / Renewal?
- What makes St. John's / Renewal unique?
- A great church must _____.

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

• Choose 2-3 Passages to Read From: Matthew 5:13-16, Acts 2:42-47, Romans 12:4-5, Romans 15:5-6, Ephesians 5:21-33, Colossians 3:16. What is God's heart for His church?

• Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Why do we gather to worship often? • Read Romans 12:1-2 and Titus 3:4-7. What does our Highlands

Campus' name (Renewal), communicate about us?

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

- The Greek word for Church is “Ekklesia,” which means “Called out assembly.” How might that help re-frame our understanding of what it means to be a part of a congregation?
- During the protestant reformation, Lutheran reformers stated that the marks of a true church are that “the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered.” Would you add anything?
- How can we adapt our church and lifegroups to effectively minister during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the post pandemic world? What will need to stay the same? What might need to be different?

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

- Read our membership covenant (attached). Is there anything in the document that is calling you to “up” your spiritual “game?”
- Go to our church website > About > Who We Are. Look at the 7 values. Is there a value that you need to work on making your own?

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.

Statement of Faith

Membership Covenant

I am a Jesus follower and a new creation in Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus is my God and Savior, and I am reconciled to the Father through His death and resurrection. I believe that Scripture is the foundation of my life, and I joyfully intend to live in repentance and forgiveness as Jesus' representative. I believe that Baptism and Communion are means of God's grace which unite and strengthen us as the body of Christ. If I have not yet been Baptized, I will ask to be Baptized in conjunction with becoming a member.

Connect with God

- 1) I will continue to participate in weekly worship services and LIFEGroups in order to *connect with God* so that I and others may grow as we follow Jesus together. In our community, we value championing healthy, Jesus focused families.
- 2) I will joyfully live as a repentant Christian for the glory of the name of Christ and His Church. I agree with Jesus' teachings regarding conflict resolution (Matt. 18:15-18). I will support the pastors and elders and my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as we seek to live in peace and unity with one another.
- 3) I will support the mission of Renewal both prayerfully and financially.

• Visit renewaldenver.org/give for information on generosity methods. **Love My Neighbor**

4) I will *love my neighbors* (those with whom I work, play, and associate, with a priority with those who live on my street). We value this by overcoming barriers, opening our lives, and doing good to those around us.

Serve My City

5) I will *serve in my city* and serve in an area of ministry. We value this by caring for creation, doing our best work, and confronting injustice.

Group Prayer Ideas

Pray for Each Other

- Everyone share their prayer requests before entering into the time of prayer;
- As you open a time of spontaneous prayer, ask people to pray for each other's requests / not their own;
- *Option: Have one person record the group's prayers in a prayer journal. Periodically review the journal to see just how much God answers prayer!*
- *Option: Conclude with the Lord's Prayer or Apostle's Creed.*
- *Option: Do a "Prayer Exchange," assigning people to pray for one another this week, & text as you do.*

Responsive Psalm Prayer

- Choose a psalm (ex: 13, 116, 136, 139, etc.);
- Have the leader and the people pray through the Psalm by trading verses responsively,
OR go around the circle and have each person take the next verse.

Missional Prayer

- Have everyone go around and pray specifically for a non-Christian friend, neighbor, co-worker, etc.
- *Option: Have everyone use the "MissionHub" app to set a prayer reminder for that person OR write the name on a 3x5 index card, take it with them and put it somewhere that they'll see it.*

Category Prayer

- The leader guides the group by inviting spontaneous prayer around a "category" at a time, allowing a couple of minutes per category;

Ex: Relational Circles

Our Families
Our Church
Our Neighbors
Our Co-Workers
Our City
Our Country
Our World

Ex: A.C.T.S.

Adoration
Confession
Thanksgiving
Supplication

Ex: Lord's Prayer

Petition 1: Holy Be Your Name
Petition 2: Your Kingdom Come
Petition 3: Your Will Be Done
Petition 4: Give us Today our Daily Bread
Petition 5: Forgive us our Trespasses
Petition 6: Lead us Not into Temptation
Petition 7: Deliver us from Evil

Ex: Healing

Physical
Emotional
Spiritual

Simultaneous Prayer

- Set a timer (ex: 3 min) and ask everyone to pray simultaneously (out loud) until the timer runs out.

Timed Prayer

- Set a timer (ex: 20 min) and then go around the circle taking turns praying until the timer runs out.