

“A New Creation”

Because we all mess up in all areas of our lives, the possibility of *starting over* is very appealing. But the best of human efforts can't bring about the desired change. That's only possible through Jesus Christ, and His resurrection power. Through Christ God gives us the hope of a new and different life, where the risen Lord actually lives within us by His presence, empowering us by His Spirit. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says it this way: “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*” God doesn't come into our lives just to make a few touch-ups or some slight renovations, He comes into our lives to make us brand new!

John 4 records the story of a sinful woman who had lost all hope of changing on her own. She just seemed to keep repeating the same patterns of failure and disappointment, over and over again. But then she met Jesus, the Messiah, God's promised Savior and Deliverer. In Him she truly found the hope of a new life, where all the old is gone and everything is made new! The woman who walked to the well without a friend, without hope, and without a future – ran back to town with the best news ever that she had met the Messiah. Like the woman at the well, since it's not US that powers the needed changes, we discover the difference that Christ alone can make when He comes into our lives and takes over. And then, also like her, we become Jesus' representatives to others. Since Jesus died for us, and since the love of Christ compels us, when we give our lives to Him, we no longer live for ourselves, but now we live for Him (see 2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Are you “in Christ?” If so, then you can claim the promise of 2 Corinthians 5:17 that *the old is gone and everything has become new!*
2. Have you become accustomed to living without hope? If so, open up your whole life to Christ and allow HIM to change you from the inside out.
3. Based on the remarkable encounters you have with Jesus, invite others to come and check Him out for themselves.