



RENOVATE: BUILDING A LIFE WITH GOD

“It’s Never too Late to Renovate”

Life Group Study

Week of September 12, 2021

Opening Prayer for Group Meeting

Creator God,

We come together, O Holy One, to encounter you in a story of renovation. As spiritual houses, we know we are in need of rebuilding our broken places so we can respond to your call. Guide us as we seek to open ourselves more fully to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the foundation of all life, we pray.

Amen.

Connect

Welcome everyone and check in.

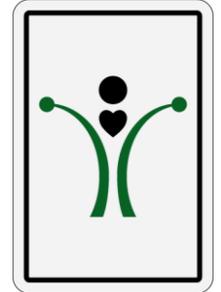
Opening

Share a time when you went through a renovation process.

What led to the decision to renovate?

What were the challenges you faced?

How did it turn out in the end?



Dwelling in the Word

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

What do you hear in this passage?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:9-16

What do you hear in this passage?

You, also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.

1 Peter 2:5

Examine Barriers to Spiritual Renovation

How would you feel about receiving guests in your house in this very moment? Are you ready? Or are there things you would prefer a call to tidy up? Are there other moments where you feel more prepared than others and vice-versa?

What doors would you close or how much would you have to clean to invite someone inside?

What areas would you be quick to invite people into your spiritual life and which areas would you cordon off?

Fixer-Uppers

Pastor Armstrong uses the illustration of Chip and Joanna Gaines TV show Fixer-Upper and the popularity of do-it-yourself projects.

Pastor Armstrong tells a story about a woman whose house had so much inside of it, she was unsure of where to even begin. She became a hoarder, holding on to everything, and the problem seemed insurmountable. The subfloor was buckling from the weight.

In what ways does this help inform us what spiritual renovation looks like?

Who does spiritual renovation? (Remember spiritual renovation is not a DIY project)



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How to Use This Study Guide to lead a Group Discussion

Read through all of the questions and choose the ones most relevant to your group. We include more than enough ideas for the times suggested. Please do not feel the need to "cover every question." It works better to focus your time on the items that best fit your group's needs.

Renovation

How has your spiritual house been tested this past year and a half?

How has Peace Lutheran been tested?

Where do you find comfort and strength and foundation when everything feels like it's in disarray?

Reflection

- Maybe things really are messy inside.
- Maybe it would be embarrassing to expose the mess. It's certainly easier to keep the door closed.
- Maybe you don't know where to start.
- Maybe you've become so preoccupied with religion on the outside you've forgotten how wondrous it is to watch Jesus do what he came to do – rebuild this world including you.

Closing Prayer

Lift us the prayers based off the conversation and study. What prayers might we share together as a group?

Song [The Summons](#)

"Will you come and follow me?
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"

"Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"

Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps go
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

