

Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series: Fresh Start

Who doesn't want a fresh start, a clean slate? That is exactly what Jesus offers us; he gives us the chance to begin anew every single day. But this is no ordinary fresh start. When we say yes to God's new beginning in our lives, we are saying yes to an adventure that will require courage, perseverance, and boldness. We are saying yes to having our world turned upside down and inside out. We are saying yes to being stirred up and to stirring things up. And one thing is for sure: this fresh start is so worth it. So, let's make it count.

Message description:

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus encounters 10 lepers in the region between Samaria and Galilee. It is a borderland, neither inside nor outside Jewish territory, and where the prohibited and forbidden inhabit. And because of the hostility between Samaritans and Jews, it is likely dangerous. Jesus frequented these regions, reminding us that he travelled paths to be among the outcast. After healing the 10 lepers and instructing them to go present themselves to the priest, only one leper returned to praise God and give thanks to Jesus. Only one, a Samaritan. Because of his faith, Jesus said, he was made whole. Not just healed, but restored into community because he recognized Jesus for who he was. What we notice, the perspective we take, makes a difference. When God is changing us and offering us a fresh start, do we recognize it? And if we do recognize it, how do we respond? With awe and praise or by letting the moment slip by unacknowledged?

Key Scripture

Luke 17:11-19

Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. How did the leper receive a fresh start from Jesus?
2. Martin Luther is quoted defining true worship as "the tenth leper returning." Do you agree or disagree? Share what true worship in this sense looks like for you.
3. In your experience, does change happen instantaneously or gradually over time? Which do you find more difficult?
4. Do you ever find yourself feeling stuck, or like _____ will always be this way? [insert hardship, relationship, difficulty in the blank.]
5. How might we be missing out on greater wellness and wholeness because we are not taking the time to stop, connect with God, and show gratitude?
6. Where do you desire a fresh perspective in this season?

Going deeper

Consider these reflections by Dr. David Lose:

"All the lepers were healed; only one, however, saw, noticed, what that meant...and it made all the difference.

*Because he sees what has happened, the leper recognizes Jesus, his reign and his power.

*Because he sees what has happened, the leper has something for which to be thankful, praising God with a loud voice.

*Because he sees what has happened, the leper changes direction, veering from his course toward a priest to first return to Jesus.

In the face of adversity, do we see danger or opportunity? In the face of human need, do we see demand or gift? In the face of the stranger, do we see potential enemy or friend?"

What we see makes a difference.

Questions for reflection:

- In times of struggle or challenge, what do you usually see or focus on?
- Where have you recognized Jesus' power and reign?
- What do you have to be thankful, or praising God for right now?
- Where do you desire a fresh perspective in the coming weeks?

Close in prayer:

Pray together. Create intentional time and space to offer prayers for one another, that we might share in the comfort of Christ together and experience the Spirit's presence.

Consider the simple acronym of ACTS to guide your time of prayer together:

- A- Adoration.** *Share praise reports or reasons to praise God. (Reading a psalm together can help)*
- C- Confession.** *Leave space to pray silently or individually to confess sins.*
- T- Thanksgiving.** *Share something in the group that you are thankful for this week.*
- S- Supplication, or petition.** *Share concerns and prayer requests you have.*