

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:

As Jesus approaches Jerusalem, teaching parables and healing, a group of religious leaders warn him; You've got to get out of here! Herod, is trying to kill you! In the face of threats and dangers, Jesus is steady. He holds fast to the mission laid before him, announcing the reign of God today, and tomorrow, and the day after. He is all about the daily work of healing and deliverance, day by day, until it is time to reach Jerusalem. His tone quickly changes to one of lament and compassion, as he longs to gather the children of Israel like a hen gathers her brood. What a powerful image of the love and protection of our God; ready with arms open wide, willing and able to comfort, defend, and protect like a mother hen in the face of any danger. How often has God desired to gather us up in the same way, but we were unwilling? How often have we faced challenges, difficulties, uncertainties, and instead of turning to God we rely on our own wisdom, work ethic, fix-it spirit, and efforts instead? We have a God who desires to embrace and empower us with his spirit so that we can withstand any fox we face. For the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is available to you too.

A fresh start of following Jesus requires steadfast purpose; to not be deterred or distracted or sacred away.

Key Scripture

Luke 13:31-35

John 14:18-27

John 16:32-33

Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. Jesus compares his empowering embrace to that of a mother hen gathering her brood under her wing. What speaks to you about this image? Or, what detail about mother hens stuck out to you in the teaching?
2. What or who do you see as the foxes of this world?
3. What difficulty, challenge, or danger have you faced where you turned to another solution other than the embrace, wisdom, and power of God? How did it go?
4. In what ways do you sense God calling you to turn to him now?
5. Re-read one or both of the passages above from the gospel of John. Do you believe the power of the Holy Spirit is available to you? How can you best experience it in moments of fear, uncertainty, or challenge?

Please be intentional about praying together!

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.*