



## CONNECT GROUP LEADER GUIDE

### THEOLOGY #5

#### BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

A great example to start this discussion about re-creating! An optional discussion starter to add to this section could be, watching this “I AM SECOND” video from Chip and Joanna here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aA7Qaj-3pJw>. As you list off the steps of a renovation project, don't forget to include all of the work that happens before any physical change ever begins. Hopefully this illustration will help people to remember and connect with the re-creating that God is inviting them to join Him in for their own lives.

#### A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

**A New Creation in Christ.** There are about 5 short passages from the Bible to read this week, with just one or two questions to answer from each passage. Make sure everyone has the question clear in their mind before you read each passage for the answer – allow God's Word to speak for itself in answering each question. I found it to be a powerful teaching tool as God challenged me with the truth of the re-creating He longs to do with me through the Spirit.

#### MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

**Some Time to Process.** I would encourage you to give individuals a little time and space to process the application of this passage. I trust the Holy Spirit will work in powerful ways if you allow Him the time and space. Give them time to wrestle with the personal application of putting off some of the “old” self and putting on the “new” in Christ. After some time, encourage people to honestly share with the group what the Spirit has convicted them of. Where will they begin cooperating with God to see their life look more like Christ?

## Christ Community Church - Announcements

**Evening YADA** | Our winter study will be Ann Voskamp's book “One Thousand Gifts - *A dare to live fully right where you are.*” This is a 5 session study meeting FEB 7- MAR 7, 7:00-8:30p in C3/4. We will use a YADA style format with small groups. Marcia DeZonia is facilitating the study.

**Quest Men's Retreat** | MAR 3-5 at Pine Lake Christian Camp [Eldora]. What to expect: focused, brief teaching sessions, time for solitude/prayer/reflection, and time for fellowship and outdoor activities. For more info or to sign up visit [www.iowaquest.com](http://www.iowaquest.com).

**Totally 80's Father Daughter Dance** | Sunday, FEB 19 from 6-8p in the gym. Dads, teach your daughter about one of your favorite decades – the 80's! Professional photo, music, light snacks, and party favor included. Cost is \$5 per person. Theme attire welcome, but not required. Sign-up Sundays in the atrium or online at [www.ccames.org](http://www.ccames.org).

**NAVS** | Can you bake? Can you buy bagels? We are looking for donations of cookies, muffins, and bagels for the NAVS Mens and Women's Retreat FEB 17. Please contact Mary Wiedenhoef, [marywied@gmail.com](mailto:marywied@gmail.com), 515.509.0729.

**CONGO | White Cross** | Monday, FEB 13, 9:30a - 2:30p in Connect 8/9. Help prepare necessary supplies for Tandala Hospital, Elikya Training Center, and Global Fingerprints Orphans we support in Congo. All are welcome, come for as long as can, and bring a sack lunch. Questions? Contact Annette Miller ([quiltbear@gmail.com](mailto:quiltbear@gmail.com) or 232-9162)

**SERVE** | Donations for Bolivia | A team will be in Bolivia MAR 9-20 taking donations for Talita Cumi orphanage. Current needs: tennis shoes, sizes to fit ages 4-18 for girls and boys; soccer balls; and books in Spanish (Magic Tree House, Dr. Seuss and Spanish bibles for children and young adults). Donations can be dropped off at the Start Here desk. Additional needs coming soon. Contact Peggy Best with questions - 515-460-1611.

## CONNECT GROUP STUDY

SERIES: The-o-logy: I Am What I Believe about God

**GOD and My Re-Creation #5** February 5-11.2017

This week's teaching explored the new work God does in a rescued person's growing life. We are a "new creation" in Christ, who by the Spirit is always seeking to replace the old with what is fantastically new. This study will equip you to understand how God recreates us in Christ.

### BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

A wildly popular show on HGTV is "Fixer-Upper." *Chip and Joanna Gaines* own and operate **Magnolia Homes** (<https://magnoliamarket.com/homes/>), a remodeling and design business in Waco, Texas, and "Fixer Upper" shows the process by which the couple turn dilapidated but potential-rich houses into showplaces that are helping revitalize whole neighborhoods throughout central Texas. A website reads, "**Chip and Joanna save homes that look hopeless, renovating the imperfect, and revealing them as what they were always intended to be.**" So...what goes into a successful "fixer-upper" project?

- Think through the steps (from beginning to end) of a fixer-upper. Someone list them!
- Then discuss: "How do these steps parallel the work God wants to do in our lives?"

### A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

Scripture is very clear what God wants to do in this work of "re-creation" of our lives. Let's explore.

#1 THE OBJECTIVE: What does the ReCreator declare as His overall objective for each of His children? Romans 8:28-29

#2 THE ADVANTAGE: What does the ReCreator assure us is no longer in control? Romans 6:5-11  
So...what are the "freeing" implications? Romans 6:12-14 (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13)

#3 THE PROCESS: What are we *asked to do to participate* in the ongoing re-creation? Ephesians 4:17-24

- Look closely at the 3 steps
- Practically, what are some of the changes that happen (cf. Eph 4:25-32)?

#4 THE DIFFERENCE: How Galatians 5 describe the changes of re-creation? Compare 5:19-21 with 5:22-23  
(what person of the Trinity is at the heart of the changes?)

#5 THE FOCUS: What does John tell us about our focus? 1 John 3:2-3

### MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

**MY LIFE** – Socrates rightly said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." Our Father challenges us to actively step into a life-changing process, to become more-and-more like His own Son. We are called to examine the "old" which needs to go, and the "new" which can replace. When GOD MAKES MY DAY, I can hear from God regularly what He wants to do next in my life. An exciting journey. Can you identify a couple of specific ways your Father wants to recreate you into the image of the Lord Jesus?

**YOUR FAMILY** – Read together 1 John 2:28-3:3 in a modern translation of the Bible (e.g., the Living Bible or The Message). Take a couple of minutes to ask each member to share – "I think I could become more like Jesus if \_\_\_\_\_." Pray for each other about the things each one shares. Bless each other!

**OUR MISSION** - My life can be "defined" by the encouraging relationships in Christ I have at Christ Community Church. Your CONNECT GROUP is a key to the re-creation your Father will accomplish in you over the months and years. Connect with others in your group. Talk about how you want to become *more* like the Savior. Share the "tough stuff" that may be standing in the way; don't fear being "transparent" in your relationships. Learn from each other. Challenge each other. Become recreated in the likeness of God's Son!