

A Fresh Start

2 Corinthians 5.14-19

Key Points:

- Sometimes, as we go through life, it feels as though we pick up all sorts of things as we go through life - baggage, or guilt or shame - the sum of our negative experiences as well as our positive ones.
- God calls us to a fresh start. One of the ways he does this is through baptism - as a sign of dying to sin and rising to new life. This 2 Corinthians passage reminds us that 'if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here.'
- As in the promises of baptism, we're called to turn to Christ and keep turning to Christ: God offers us a new start but it is also up to us to embrace it in all the ways we live.

Questions:

Conversation Starter - Get the group involved with a question everyone can answer

1. What kinds of new things (small or large) do you get most excited about? New foods, new years, new jobs, new people?

Start thinking - Get the group thinking around the subject,

2. When are the times in your life you've been particularly aware of having a fresh start?
3. What has the Christian faith to offer, fresh start-wise?

Start sharing - Choose a question to create openness

4. 'If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come': do you feel like a new creation (always/sometimes/never!)? How might you feel more so?
5. How do we consciously put on our new selves in Christ? (assuming they don't just arrive at the moment of conversion or baptism!)

Start praying

6. God, help us to turn to you and to keep turning to you as we live our lives. Help us to be more aware of the places in our lives where you want to give us a fresh start, and help us to minister to others with the good news of the new life you offer.

Start doing

7. God gives us the ministry of reconciliation (v19): what might this look like in practice?
8. Where in your life can you see opportunities for this?