

WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE



Scripture: Titus 3:3–8



Week of: December 15, 2025



Message Title: The Gift of Renewal



Speaker: Ps. Lenard Tavernelli

1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)

Share a time when you tried to “clean yourself up” spiritually, but you still felt stuck. What helped you finally see that you needed God to change you from the inside, not just improve the outside?

2. READ TOGETHER

*Have someone from your group read aloud **Titus 3:3–8**.*

Ask: What words or phrases stand out that describe who you were before Christ and what God has done for you through Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

3. Group Discussion (30–40 mins)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *(Use the most helpful questions for your group.)*

1. Verse 3 gives a brutally honest picture of who we were before Christ: foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to passions, and marked by malice, envy, and hatred. Where do you most clearly see this corruption show up in real life today, and where do you most clearly see it in your own heart?
2. Ps. Lenard said we have to see how “filthy” sin is to appreciate how deep God’s saving work really is. Why do you think we tend to minimize sin, and what happens to our gratitude and joy when we do?
3. In verses 4–5, the turning point is not “but when we tried harder,” it is “but when God.” What does it say about God

that salvation flows from his goodness, loving kindness, mercy, and grace rather than from our works?

4. The sermon emphasized that God does not merely cleanse us like a car wash. God renews us and makes us new. What is the difference between behavior change and regeneration (new birth)? How have you seen that difference play out in your own walk with Christ?
5. Titus 3:5 says God saved us "by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." How would you explain this in simple terms to someone who thinks Christianity is mainly about becoming a better person?
6. Ps. Lenard connected renewal to God's bigger plan: he is not throwing creation away, he is restoring the whole cosmos under Christ. How does that bigger picture change the way you view your daily struggles with sin, discouragement, or weariness?
7. Verse 7 says the goal is that we become "heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Ps. Lenard clarified that biblical hope is not wishful thinking, it is confident expectation. Where do you most need that kind of hope right now?
8. Verse 8 connects the gospel to our lives: those who believe should devote themselves to good works. What is the difference between doing good works to earn God's love and doing good works because God has already saved and renewed you?
9. Bethel's mission is to *proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God*. Ps. Lenard said our good works give credibility to the gospel and become a glimpse of the renewal God is bringing to the world. Where is God calling you to show that renewal through love this week, so that someone might "see" the gospel through your life?
10. Ps. Lenard reminded us that renewal by the Spirit does not stop with personal change. God is forming a people whose lives give the world a glimpse of the renewal he is bringing to all things. Choose **one or two** of the values below and discuss how renewal in Christ should shape them more deeply.

- **Worship** - Renewal trains our hearts to rejoice in the Savior even in a world still marked by darkness, sorrow, and brokenness.
- **Bible Knowledge** - Renewal keeps us grounded in what God says is true about sin, grace, and new life, protecting us from turning the Christian life into self-improvement.
- **Fellowship** - Renewal draws us out of isolation, shame, and self-reliance and into honest, grace-filled relationships with one another.
- **Prayer** - Renewal deepens our dependence on the Spirit, shaping us into people who seek God's help rather than relying on our own strength.
- **Service** - Renewal changes both *why* and *how* we serve, leading us to love others faithfully even when service is costly, unnoticed, or inconvenient.
- **Giving** - Renewal frees us from fear and scarcity by reminding us that God is the one who secures our future, enabling generosity rooted in trust.
- **Evangelism** - Renewal gives credibility to the gospel as changed lives display God's work, and it encourages us to tell others with confidence and humility, knowing that God saves, not us.
- **Missions** - Renewal connects our lives to God's plan to restore the whole cosmos, expanding our vision beyond ourselves to the gospel going to the nations.

4. Prayer (10–15 mins)

Thank God for renewal by the Spirit

Prompt:

Thank God that when we were corrupted in sin, his goodness and loving kindness appeared in Jesus and he saved us by mercy, not by our works. Praise him for the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, and for the secure hope of eternal life as heirs with Christ. Confess where you have minimized sin, tried to clean yourself up, or relied on performance instead of depending on the Spirit. Ask God to keep renewing your mind, desires, and relationships so your life shows the reality of the gospel through good works of love. Pray for someone specific who needs hope right now, and ask God to use your words and your life this week to point them to the Savior who makes all things new.