



APRIL 7

THE NEW REALITY

A NEW YOU



POTLUCK & COVENANT

This week, we start our spring session of Life Groups with a dinner and covenant meeting. Your Life Group Leaders should have contacted you by now to make sure you know the time and location of the meeting, as well as what to expect for the first gathering. If you have not heard from your Life Group Leaders, please contact Stacy Sullivan at (818) 709-0113, ext. 105, and she will help you get connected.

The Life Group Covenant explains the purpose of your Life Group, clarifies the expectations for being a part of your Life Group, and explains what you are committing to for this session. Your covenant will look different based on whether you are in a digital (Zoom) group or an in-person group.

As you prepare for your meeting, make sure to take some time to answer the questions in the study and then bring them with you to your first meeting.

Finally, we are providing less space for answers on this sheet, so make sure to have a journal handy to write down your answers.

Enjoy!



GETTING STARTED

Last week we celebrated Easter, but as we jump into our new three-week miniseries, *The New Reality*, we discover that Easter is not the end of the story, but an epic beginning. Because of Jesus' resurrection, the promise of God is fulfilled to give us a new hope and a new life as we now live in a new reality.

As you begin the study, take a moment to reflect on the verses below:

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Colossians 3:1-4***



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

If you could visit anywhere on the planet Earth, where would you visit? Why? What would you do while you were there?



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. One of the passages that Dre highlighted this weekend was Colossians 3:1-4.
 - a. Write down any words or phrases that God highlighted for you.
 - b. What is it about those words or phrases that caught your eye?
 - c. What do you think the writer of Colossians means by, “*When Christ, who is your life*”?
 - d. What would your life look like if you lived it with the understanding that Christ is the one who breathes life into you, allows your heart to beat, has given you every gift, talent, and ability you have?

2. Dre’s first point in the message was *The Resurrection of Jesus ... Is A Wrecking Ball To Our Old Life ... And The Beginning Of A Radically New One*.
 - a. What are some of the first images that come to mind as you read through this first point?
 - b. Is there anything still standing from your “*old life*”? Explain.
 - c. What would it look like to allow Jesus to knock down what is still standing? What would you have to surrender/give up?

3. In the message, Dre shared this quote from James Denney’s book, *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians*.

The past was dead to [Paul]. As dead as Christ on the cross, all its ideas, all its hopes, all its ambitions were dead in Christ he was another man in another universe.

 - a. Write out this quote in your own words.
 - b. What might it look like for your “*old life*” to be completely dead (surrendered) with all its ideas, hopes and ambitions?
 - c. What do you think Denney means by “*...he (Paul) was another man in another universe*”?

4. This weekend Dre shared that Jesus is our new *blueprint*. When we give our lives to Christ, we build our life off of Jesus’ example.
 - a. What was your life like before Christ?
 - b. How has His *blueprint* changed the way you live your life? Make decisions? Interact with others?
 - c. Is there anything that God is tearing down in your life?
 - d. What would it look like to allow Jesus’ *blueprint* to rebuild this area according to His design for you?



LOOKING FOWARD

1. As we jump into the spring session of Life Groups, is God asking you to surrender anything? Is He currently highlighting anything to you? What would it look like for you to take action on those things? What steps would you need to take?
2. The 9 weeks of the spring session will fly by—what one area would you like God to grow you in? Why?



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons, we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a topic is introduced, one or two members pray for that request. Then the Life Group Leader will direct the prayer time by sharing the next topic/request.

2. Pray Several Times Together

By focusing on one topic at a time, each member has an opportunity to pray at different times for the requests they are most passionate about.

3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple

By keeping both requests and prayers short and simple, everyone has a chance to share and pray. This helps those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying. It also helps everyone stay focused during your time of prayer together.