

**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday?
Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you
unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into
God's word.**

1. *When you are feeling low, discouraged, or disappointed what do you like to do to make yourself feel better?*
2. *If you could change one thing in your walk with Jesus, what would it be and why?*
3. *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

There are times in our walk with Jesus where we can know intellectually that we are made new in Christ; yet our feelings tell us quite the opposite. We have great expectations for what life with Jesus is going to be like. Then, we face reality and we find ourselves remarkably disappointed with whom we feel like we've become. One of Jesus' closet disciples, Peter, faced a similar reality after swearing he would never deny Jesus; even so, Peter did what he swore he would never do; he denied Jesus three times leaving his faith shattered and feeling completely discouraged.

- *As a group, spend some time reading through John 21:1-19. Write down any observations, questions, important insights you gain from reading the text.*

- *What is significant about Peter choosing to go fishing? Was this a fun fishing trip or a return to his past life? Was Peter's attempt to return to his past fruitful? Read Luke 5:1-11 what are the similarities between the two passages? Is the similarity a coincidence, or is Jesus trying to communicate something to Peter and to us?*
- *Regardless of Peter's feelings of failure and betrayal, Jesus treats Peter with love and compassion. What does Jesus do to restore his relationship with Peter? What does Jesus do to restore our relationship with him regardless of our feelings?*
- *Does Jesus ever mention Peter's failure? What does Jesus ask Peter to do? What emotion does Peter express? How might we apply Jesus' response to Peter to our own relationships with Jesus?*

Digging Deeper

- *On Sunday Pastor Jason made this statement "We are not changed by feeling better about ourselves, we are changed by faith in Jesus." What do you think about this statement? Do you agree? Do you ever find that your feelings sabotage your faith? What steps can you take to rely on your faith over your feelings?*
- *This past Sunday, we discovered three powerful truths regarding how we are made new in Christ. Which one do you relate with the most and why?*

NEW

“How to be Made New”

- PART 2 -

- January 15, 2017 -



Religious behavior may make me nice, but only Jesus can make me new.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17(NLT)

...At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

WHY DON'T I FEEL NEW?

❖ My history.

❖ My hurts.

❖ My habits.

Feeling better about ourselves does not change us. We are changed by **faith** in Jesus.

HOW AM I MADE NEW IN CHRIST?

In Christ, I am...

1. **Forgiven** for my **past**.

Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Luke 15:21-24 (NIV)

His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' ²² 'But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.*

2. **Healed** of my **hurts**.

Isaiah 61:1(NIV)

(The Lord) has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

3. **Freed** from my **habits**.

Ephesians 4:21-24 (NLT)

Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

John 8:36

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.