

LifeGroup

Discussion Guide



BEING THE CHURCH IN THIS NEW SEASON

BIG IDEA: God often leads His people into new seasons that require renewed faith, fresh vision, and willing hearts.

DATE: Sunday, August 9, 2026

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2:21-22 and Isaiah 43:18-19

OPENING QUESTION

What is something “old” that is “new” again?

SETTING THE STAGE

Every church experiences seasons of change. Some seasons are marked by growth, others by challenge, and still others by new leadership. The arrival of a new lead pastor is more than a staffing change—it is an opportunity for the church to seek God together and ask, “What new thing does God desire to do among us?”

As we enter this new chapter, Jesus' words in Mark 2 and God's promise in Isaiah remind us that God often works in fresh ways. While His truth never changes, He frequently calls His people to embrace new opportunities with hearts that are willing to follow Him.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Mark 2:21-22 (CSB)

²¹No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new patch pulls away from the old cloth, and a worse tear is made. ²²And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost as well as the skins. No, new wine is put into fresh wineskins.”

Isaiah 43:18-19 (CSB)

¹⁸“Do not remember the past events; pay no attention to things of old. ¹⁹Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ: MARK 2:21-22

What was Jesus teaching through the illustrations of the new cloth and the new wineskins?

- Why couldn't you put old cloth onto new cloth?
- Why wouldn't new wine fit into old wineskins?
- What does this tell us about how God works?

What are some "old wineskins" that can develop in a church? Consider attitudes more than traditions.

How can we recognize these attitudes in ourselves?

What qualities make someone a "new wineskin"?

What if Jesus has something *new* for you that you didn't even know you were ready for? Would you find it easier or harder to trust Him with that? Why or why not?

READ: ISAIAH 43:18-19

God tells Israel not to dwell on the former things. What do you think He meant?

How is remembering God's faithfulness different from "living in the past"? How can we honor the past but look forward with faith that God is doing a new thing, and we get to be part of it?

In what ways do we resist the change required for the new we're praying for?

Where have you already seen God working in our church?

What are healthy ways to honor previous pastors and leaders while welcoming a new pastor? Why is it important to do both?

What responsibilities belong to the congregation during a pastoral transition? How can we move forward with flexibility and support in this new season?

If God truly wants to do "a new thing" in our church, what changes might He first want to make in us personally? Where is God stretching you personally? Where is He preparing you?

In this new season we will see new faces. Are we ready to welcome and embrace new visitors? What might that look like for our LifeGroup in particular?

"Lord, help us recognize what You are doing and joyfully join You."

RESPONSE

Group Challenge

This week, commit to three actions:

- ✓ Pray every day for our new lead pastor and family.
- ✓ Encourage at least one church leader or volunteer.
- ✓ Ask God each day, "Show me how I can be part of the new thing You are doing."