

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"MADE NEW, FOR A PURPOSE" | 2 CORINTHIANS 5: 17 | PASTOR LARRY HANSEN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

- **What comes to mind when you think of a restoration project?**

"Regeneration: God Gives Us New Life" 1 Peter 1: 3

Through Jesus God makes us new when we accept His salvation.

- **Why can't people restore themselves? What are signs someone is being made new?**

"Justification: God Declares Us Righteous" Romans 8: 33-34

God sees His people as spotless and all guilt and shame removed.

- **What does knowing all guilt and shame are removed do to someone's life?**

"Sanctification: God Shapes Us to Be Like Christ" 2 Corinthians 3: 18

Even though all sin is removed, God shapes His people throughout their lives.

- **What are ways you sense God working to form you?**
- **How are you talking about this with others?**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Jesus gave His life so all people could be forgiven, restored, and made new and to share that good news with others.

- **How has God been bringing you to Jesus?**
- **What are ways you are resisting God's work to mold and shape you?**
- **Who are people in your life that you sense need to hear about the good news of Jesus?**
- **Praise God for His salvation this week and look for opportunities to share that joy with others.**

Made New, For a Purpose

First slide —

Made New for a Purpose

Because God has drawn us near through Christ, He restores us, making us new, so that He might be made known through our lives.

We are coming off the Christmas season, Brian said something that really hit home for me.

He said "**Every road meets at the Manger**" reminding all of us about the importance of the Virgin birth of Jesus. Our one and only savior.

When I started thinking about this theme was when Brian was sharing from Matt 2:11 that Magi seeing Jesus.

As I think about being made new, or something being made new. This presses me too think back to my youth...

Think about being made new as an Idea of restoration!

This thinking about being made new, Brings me to be thinking about my dad. My dad was the kind of guy who could fix almost anything.

He had skills that allowed him to restore broken things, everything from electronics to cars. By profession, he was a project engineer, which meant he worked in very tight tolerances. He was that guy who always had a micrometer in his pocket. He could spot something that was off by a hundredth of an inch just by looking at it.

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Second slide -

At times, my brother and I would help him with auto body repair. Dad didn't replace car parts—he recreated them. I watched him take smashed fenders and reshape them until they looked new again.

Our job was sanding the fenders until they were perfectly smooth and flat, some of you might know that process as blocking.

Dad would go off to work, and we'd do our best while he was gone. Later, he would inspect our work.

Almost every time, there were still little dimples that needed filling. But when he was finished, the car didn't just look better—it looked new. Restored.

That's the picture I was us to think about today!

We are much like an old car... dented, dinged, sometimes crushed. But God doesn't throw us away. He restores us. And that restoration, that being **Made New** , is found in Jesus.

Click

Third slide (10)

“Every road meets at the manger, one moment, the in presence of Christ.”

Every one of us must come to that moment the personal encounter with Jesus!

Not just a story we know, not a tradition we follow, but a meeting with the living Savior. That encounter brings restoration. That encounter makes us new.

The Magi: Had An Encounter That led to Change

The Magi in Matthew 2:11 lived out this same truth.

They followed the star, but the star wasn't the destination they were looking for Jesus, and that was person that made their change!

When they finally reached Him... They worshiped Him and They left forever changed!

“And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11, ESV)

A real encounter with Christ always produces transformation. It always leads to worship and change. Salvation comes through Jesus alone, and in Him, we are made new.

Click

Slide 11- (4 slide)

As Jesus saves, we see that we are Changed. I often think of these like a stair step. However we need to note that as we make that commitment to Jesus we are seen as we are made new. As if we have been completely restored.

Regeneration

God gives us new life.

He paid the price for us, like purchasing a broken car, not to scrap it but to restore it. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”* (1 Peter 1:3, ESV)

Justification

God declares us righteous in Christ.

He sees us like that car fully repaired, the dents gone, the damage removed. *“Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”* (Romans 8:33–34, ESV)

“yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.” (Galatians 2:16, ESV)

Sanctification

As we are declared righteous God continues shaping and restoring us. Or Growth in the likeness to Christ

Like my dad sanding and polishing, God continues His work in us, refining us, drawing us closer, working out the dimples and dents of our soul. **“So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”**

(Romans 6:11, ESV)

“So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.” (2 Corinthians 3:18, NLT)

Click 2 Corinthians 5:17

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

Next slide click, click How were you drawn to Jesus?

Click, How were you drawn to Jesus? What started your encounter with Jesus? Maybe someone prayed for you. Maybe someone showed you God's love. Maybe you were at a point of brokenness and He met you there.

Click *“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”* (Romans 10:9, ESV)

Salvation comes through confession and belief in Jesus Christ.

At that instant:

- We are justified—seen as without sin.
- Our position before God changes.
- We begin a new life in Him.

We are not the same people we once were. We're made new, forgiven, and free.

Click In Romans chapters 6–8, Paul reminds us that even though we are made new, the Lord keeps working in us. The old sin nature is still there, but it no longer defines us.

Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to pursue holiness.

This is the continuing process of sanctification... God , sanding, shaping, polishing our character so that we reflect the image of Christ more and more.

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As I think about about this idea of being drawn to Jesus, maybe even seeking to find out more about Jesus, and then seeing a life completely change by Jesus I am reminded of Cornelius in the book of Acts.

This happens to be one of my favorite stories in the Bible.

Tell about — Acts 10:42–45, when Cornelius hears the gospel, Peter comes to him and answers his questions about Jesus, then Cornelius believes, and the Holy Spirit fills him and his household.

“And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.” (Acts 10:42–45, ESV)

His encounter shows us three things:

God draws people to Himself.
Salvation is for those seeking Jesus.
Encounter leads to transformation.

Every encounter with Jesus brings newness and presents us with in purpose.
Now let's circle back to your story???
Think about how God drew you to Jesus.
That encounter wasn't just for your salvation; it was also your calling.
You were made new so that others might be drawn through you to Jesus.

We often refer this as the The Great Commission.

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”” (Matthew 28:18–20, ESV)

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Now that we are like Cornelius, seen as restored , Made New, what then?
As we read in the Book of Acts is... *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*
(Acts 2:42, ESV)

Their transformed lives made Jesus visible. They lived so that others could encounter Him through them.

Being made new isn't the end; it's the beginning of your purpose.

Made for a purpose, made new, for His glory, follow the example of the early church!

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Made New for a Purpose Closing Slide and statement

Matthew 26:28

Jesus said, “**This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”**

He gave His life so that we could be forgiven, restored, and made new.

Now we are called to live as those who help others find that same restoration.
Every road meets at the manger.

Every heart must encounter Jesus.

And every made-new believer is called to make Him known.

“And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”
Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”””
(Revelation 21:5, ESV)

Let your restored life be the road that leads someone else
to the very presence of Christ