

# NEW is for EVERYONE

## Connect Group Discussion Guide

Sunday Message - 4/26/20 | Chuck Sackett | John 1, 6, 13, 18, & 21

*NEW is even for the mess ups!*

### Key Scriptures:

*For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.*

- 1 Corinthians 1:26

*The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.*

- 1 Timothy 1:15

*Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.*

- Matthew 9:13

*One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).*

- John 1:40, 42

*Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."*

- John 6:68-69

*Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not."*

- John 18:25

*He [Jesus] said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."*

- John 21:17

### Message Notes:

Peter's Journey:

- Called – John 1:35-42
- Spokesman – John 6:68-69
- Defender – John 13; John 18
- Betrayer – John 18:15-18, 25-27
- Restored – John 21:15-17

#### Mary of Magdala's Journey (Mary Magdalene):

- Was Demon-Possessed before Meeting Jesus – Luke 8:1-2
- At the Foot of the Cross with Jesus's Mother – John 19:25
- First Person at the Empty Tomb – John 20:1-2
- Encounters Jesus Resurrected – John 20:11-17
- First to Proclaim The Resurrection to Others– John 20:18

#### Message Highlights:

- There are some churches who are happy to welcome you in, as long as you clean up your mess first.
- There is another kind of church, a church for the “splendid sinner,” the “lovable unlovely.” They are churches for the messy people who understand that the church is a “hospital for sinners, not a hotel for saints.”
- If we read our Bibles at all, we shouldn't be surprised that NEW is for everyone.
- Even though Peter still messes up long after he committed to following Jesus, he receives an amazing grace from Jesus.
- We should not be surprised that God uses messy people.
- Never look at your life and think, “God can never do anything with me.” NEW is for everyone!

#### Conversation Starters:

- What helpful habit have you started (or broken) during the COVID-19 quarantine?
- What's something that you miss that surprises you? What's something that you don't miss that surprises you?

#### Discuss the Message:

1. What should we do when we experience doubt about God's grace, when we feel like we've made one too many mistakes?
2. How can we help one another remain confident in the grace and forgiveness that Jesus has given us?
3. What can we do to be the kind of church who communicates with our words and actions that Jesus is for everyone?
4. Who is one person you know who needs to hear that NEW is for everyone? What can you do to share that message of hope with them?

#### Pray:

- Pray for one another.
- Pray for the students of our church as they experience loss, grief, and isolation.
- Pray for one person you know who needs to hear the message that Jesus offers new life to everyone.
- Pray for an opportunity to share that hope with them. Pray that God will open their heart to receive it.