



ALL THINGS NEW RESOURCE PACK

An exploration of the theme of renewal throughout the Bible

This Pack contains:

- **An Introductory (Lead) Article**
- **Questions for Personal reflection or Group Discussion**
- **Suggested 4-Week Study Series**
- **Small Group Leader's Guide: Discussion Questions**
- **Icebreaker Activities**
- **Weekly Follow-Up Challenge**
- **Closing Prayer Template**
- **Group Handout Template**
- **Background Worship Playlist**
- **Midweek Encouragement Messages**
- **Timeline for a 60 or 90-Minute Meeting**

INTRODUCTORY ARTICLE

ALL THINGS NEW

©Phillip Donnell 2026

The theme of renewal is the heartbeat of the biblical narrative. From the opening pages of Genesis to the final visions of Revelation, Scripture reveals a God who is not passive about decay, sin, or destruction. Instead, He actively works to make "all things new." This renewal is not merely the repair of old structures but a radical, life-giving transformation. It spans across time—past, present, and future—and encompasses every dimension of reality: individuals, nations, physical places, desperate situations, and the natural world.

1. The Renewal of Individuals

The Bible consistently demonstrates that God's renewal begins in the human heart. Individual renewal addresses the spiritual death caused by sin, offering a clean slate and a transformed nature.

Past Examples

In the Old Testament, King David provides a profound example of personal renewal. After his moral collapse with Bathsheba, he did not pray for a superficial fix. In **Psalms 51:10**, he cried out, *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."* The Hebrew word for create (*bara*) is the same word used in Genesis 1 for creating the cosmos out of nothing. David recognised that individual renewal requires a fresh act of divine creation.

Present Reality

In the New Testament and the current church age, individual renewal becomes the definitive mark of a believer. The Apostle Paul declares in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* This is a present, ongoing reality. While the physical body ages and decays, the inner person is *"being renewed day by day"* (**2 Corinthians 4:16**). This happens through the Holy Spirit, who washes and renews the believer (**Titus 3:5**), and through the conscious reshaping of the mind (**Romans 12:2**).

Future Culmination

The ultimate renewal of the individual occurs at the resurrection. Believers look forward to a time when their corruptible, mortal bodies will be exchanged for incorruptible, glorified bodies (**1 Corinthians 15:52–54**). Individual renewal will be complete when sin, temptation, and physical frailty are permanently eradicated.

2. The Renewal of Nations and Corporate Identities

God does not just save isolated individuals; He restores entire communities and nations, shifting their collective identity from rebellion to righteousness.

Past Examples

The nation of Israel experienced repeated cycles of decline and renewal. A definitive moment occurred during the Babylonian exile. The people had lost their homeland, their temple, and their identity. Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promised a national resurrection. In the vision of the Valley of Dry Bones (**Ezekiel 37**), God breathed life into a dead nation, promising to bring them back to their land.

Furthermore, He promised corporate internal renewal: *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh"* (**Ezekiel 36:26**).

Present Reality

Today, this corporate renewal is expressed not only through the restoration of the Jewish nation, but also through the global Church. God has taken fragmented, hostile groups of people and forged them into a unified, new humanity. Ephesians 2:15 explains that Christ's work on the cross was to *"create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace."* The Church, composed of every nation, tribe, and tongue, exists as a present-day sign of God's reconciling and renewing power.

Future Culmination

The final renewal of corporate humanity will be realised when the global body of believers stands before the throne of God (**Revelation 7:9**). Nations will no longer walk in hostility or deception. Instead, the *"healing of the nations"* will be achieved through the tree of life (**Revelation 22:2**), and the collective wealth and culture of human history will be purified and brought into the city of God.

3. The Renewal of Places and Situations

God's renewing power breaks into specific geographic locations and human circumstances, turning desolation into joy and barrenness into fruitfulness.

Past Examples

The city of Jerusalem and its temple serve as historical epicentres of situational renewal. After the Babylonian captivity, the city lay in ruins. Under the leadership of Nehemiah and Ezra, the walls were rebuilt, the law was reread, and the covenant was renewed (**Nehemiah 8–9**). God took a place of reproach and made it a place of security and worship once again. On a situational level, God routinely renewed the circumstances of the desperate, such as turning Ruth's bitter widowhood into a legacy of blessing.

Present Reality

Wherever the gospel takes root today, places and situations experience the breaking in of God's kingdom. Broken marriages are healed, cycles of addiction are broken, and communities plagued by injustice find voices for reform. Jesus taught His followers to pray, *"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"* (**Matthew 6:10**). This prayer invites the present-day renewal of earthly environments and social dynamics.

Future Culmination

The ultimate renewal of place is the descent of the New Jerusalem in **Revelation 21:1–2**. Heaven and earth, once separated by sin, merge completely. The text explicitly notes that the sea—a biblical symbol of chaos, distance, and evil—is no more. God establishes His permanent dwelling place with humanity, completely renewing the environment of human existence.

4. The Renewal of Natural Phenomena and Creation

The physical cosmos is not discarded in God's redemptive plan; it is redeemed. The natural world, currently suffering under the weight of human sin, awaits a comprehensive restoration.

Past Examples

The Great Flood in the days of Noah (**Genesis 6–9**) represents a dramatic, structural reset of the natural order. Because the earth was corrupt, God washed it clean and initiated a fresh start, sealing it with a rainbow and a covenant never to destroy the earth by water again. Later, Israel's agricultural cycles and Sabbath years (**Leviticus 25**) were designed to allow the land itself to rest and experience physical renewal.

Present Reality

Currently, creation exists in a state of tension. Paul describes this vividly in **Romans 8:21–22**, stating that *"creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay"* and that it is currently *"groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."* The natural disasters, droughts, and decay we observe are the "groans" of a creation longing for its intended state. Yet, God sustains it presently, providing rain, sun, and changing seasons as continuous signs of His renewing care (**Psalms 104**).

Future Culmination

The grand climax of the biblical story is not humanity escaping the physical world, but the physical world being completely reborn. Isaiah prophesied that God would *"create new heavens and a new earth"* (**Isaiah 65:17**). Peter echoes this, looking forward to a renewed cosmos where righteousness dwells (**2 Peter 3:13**). Finally, from His throne in the New Jerusalem, God declares the ultimate thesis of Scripture: *"I am making everything new!"* (**Revelation 21:5**).

Conclusion

The biblical theme of renewal proves that God is the ultimate restorer. He does not abandon His original creation; He reclaims it. Whether healing a broken heart,

restoring a fractured nation, rebuilding a ruined city, or purifying the cosmos, the triune God ensures that the final word of human history is not decay, but a glorious, everlasting new beginning.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

1. **Individual Renewal:** Read **Psalm 51:10** and **Romans 12:2**. What is the difference between trying to change your own behaviour and asking God to *renew* your mind and spirit? Where do you need personal renewal today?
2. **Corporate Renewal:** In what ways should the Church act as a preview of the "new humanity" (**Ephesians 2:15**) in a deeply divided world? How can your local church better reflect this reality?
3. **Situational Renewal:** Can you think of a "ruined place" or a seemingly hopeless situation in your life or community? How does the biblical promise of renewal change the way you pray for and act in that situation?
4. **Cosmic Renewal:** How does **Romans 8:19–22** change your view of the physical environment? If God plans to renew the earth rather than discard it, how should Christians treat creation right now?
5. **The Ultimate Promise:** Read **Revelation 21:1–5**. What comfort does the phrase "*I am making everything new*" give you in the face of grief, sickness, or death?

SUGGESTED 4-WEEK STUDY SERIES: "ALL THINGS NEW"

- **Week 1: The New Heart (Individual Renewal)**
 - *Scripture Focus:* Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:11–21; Titus 3:1–7.
 - *Theme:* Moving from spiritual death to a dynamic, daily renewal of the inner self through the Holy Spirit.
- **Week 2: The New Community (Corporate Renewal)**
 - *Scripture Focus:* Ezekiel 37:1–14; Ephesians 2:11–22.
 - *Theme:* How God breathes life into dead structures, tears down walls of hostility, and creates a unified people.
- **Week 3: The New Outlook (Situational and Environmental Renewal)**
 - *Scripture Focus:* Isaiah 35; Romans 8:18–25; Psalm 104.
 - *Theme:* Recognising the groaning of creation and learning to partner with God in bringing hope to broken places.

- **Week 4: The New Creation (Future Culmination)**

- *Scripture Focus:* Isaiah 65:17–25; 2 Peter 3:10–14; Revelation 21–22.
- *Theme:* Anchoring our ultimate hope in the physical resurrection and the restoration of the cosmos.

Key Verses for Memorisation

- **2 Corinthians 5:17:** *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*
- **Romans 12:2:** *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*
- **Revelation 21:5:** *"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'"*

SMALL GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE: DISCUSSION NOTES

Use these notes to guide your group through the questions, manage common misconceptions, and steer the conversation toward practical, biblical application.

Question 1: Individual Renewal

Read **Psalm 51:10** and **Romans 12:2**. What is the difference between trying to change your own behaviour and asking God to renew your mind and spirit? Where do you need personal renewal today?

- **Leader's Goal:** Help members move away from "moralistic therapeutic deism" (the idea that Christianity is just about being a good person through self-will) and toward a reliance on the Holy Spirit.
- **Key Distinction to Highlight:**
 - *Self-effort* focuses on modifying external behaviours (e.g., trying harder not to lose your temper). It leads to either pride (if successful) or despair (if unsuccessful).
 - *Divine renewal* focuses on a transformed heart. When God changes our desires and thoughts, right behaviour flows naturally as a fruit of the Spirit, not a forced labour.
- **Facilitation Tip:** People may hesitate to answer the second part because it requires vulnerability. Be prepared to share a small, honest area where you need renewal first (e.g., *"I need God to renew my mind regarding anxious thoughts about work"*). This sets a safe tone for the group.

Question 2: Corporate Renewal

In what ways should the Church act as a preview of the "new humanity" (Ephesians 2:15) in a deeply divided world? How can your local church better reflect this reality?

- **Leader's Goal:** Shift the group's focus from an individualistic "me and Jesus" faith to a corporate "us and Jesus" vision.
- **Contextual Note:** In Ephesians 2, Paul is discussing the radical bridge built between Jews and Gentiles—two groups with deep ethnic, cultural, and religious hostility.
- **Discussion Steering:**
 - If the group focuses only on superficial things (like changing the music style), steer them deeper. Ask: *"What are the cultural or political dividing lines in our neighbourhood, and how can our church actively bridge them?"*
 - Emphasise that the Church is meant to be a *proleptic* community—a trailer or sneak peek of heaven, where people who have nothing in common socially are deeply united by Christ.

Question 3: Situational Renewal

Can you think of a "ruined place" or a seemingly hopeless situation in your life or community? How does the biblical promise of renewal change the way you pray for and act in that situation?

- **Leader's Goal:** Build a bridge between biblical theology and the messy, real-world environments your group members inhabit daily.
 - **Theology to Inject:** Remind the group of Nehemiah. He didn't just pray; he rolled up his sleeves and built the wall. Biblical renewal rarely happens in a vacuum; God usually uses His people as the agents of that renewal.
 - **Shifting the Prayer Dynamic:**
 - A regular prayer might be: *"God, please get me out of this toxic workplace."*
 - A prayer shaped by biblical renewal is: *"God, this workplace is broken. How can You use me to bring a sense of your justice, peace, and newness into this office?"*
-

Question 4: Cosmic Renewal

*How does **Romans 8:19–22** change your view of the physical environment? If God plans to renew the earth rather than discard it, how should Christians treat creation right now?*

- **Leader's Goal:** Correct the common misconception that the physical world doesn't matter because "we are all going to float away to heaven on a cloud."
 - **Key Biblical Concept:** The ultimate Christian hope is not an escape from earth, but the resurrection of the body and the renewal of the cosmos (**Revelation 21**).
 - **Handling Tension:** Environmental stewardship can sometimes spark political debates. Keep the group anchored in text: if creation is "groaning" under the weight of human sin, Christians should be at the forefront of relieving that groan, not contributing to it. Caring for the earth is an act of worship to the Creator who made it "very good."
-

Question 5: The Ultimate Promise

*Read **Revelation 21:1–5**. What comfort does the phrase "I am making everything new" give you in the face of grief, sickness, or death?*

- **Leader's Goal:** Ground the group's ultimate hope in the finality of God's victory over suffering, closing the session on a note of profound hope.
 - **Textual Nuance:** Notice that God says, "*I am making all things new*," NOT "*I am making all new things*." He does not scrap His creation; He redeems it.
 - **Pastoral Care Moment:** Pay close attention during this question. Members who are currently walking through grief, chronic illness, or looking at the death of a loved one may be deeply moved. Let the reality of a world without tears, pain, or death settle over the room.
-

ICEBREAKER ACTIVITIES (PICK ONE)

Option 1: "The Restoration Project" (Visual & Relational)

- **The Setup:** Ask everyone to look up a quick image or think of a famous restoration project (e.g., a classic muscle car, a ruined castle, an old painting, or a vintage piece of furniture).

- **The Question:** *"If money, time, and skill were no object, what is one old, broken, or vintage item you would love to completely restore to mint condition? Why?"*
- **The Purpose:** This softly introduces the core theme. It gets people thinking about the excitement, beauty, and value found in making something old completely new again, rather than just throwing it away.

Option 2: "The Clean Slate" (Fast & Reflective)

- **The Question:** *"If you could wake up tomorrow morning with a total 'reset button' pushed on one everyday routine, minor habit, or household chore, what would it be?"* (e.g., a permanently clean kitchen, a perfectly organised email inbox, or automatically waking up at 5:00 AM with full energy).
- **The Purpose:** This keeps things light and humorous while tapping into the universal human longing for a fresh start and a clean slate.

WEEKLY FOLLOW-UP CHALLENGES

To move the group from *talking* about renewal to *living* it, challenge your members to pick **one** of the following actions to complete before your next meeting:

Challenge 1: The Personal "Mind Reset" (Individual Focus)

- **The Action:** Identify one toxic thought pattern that regularly steals your peace (e.g., comparison, workplace anxiety, or a critical spirit).
- **The Practice:** Write down **Romans 12:2** on a sticky note or set it as your phone lock screen. Every time that specific negative thought enters your mind this week, pause, read the verse, and ask the Holy Spirit to actively renew your mind in that exact moment.

Challenge 2: The "Groan Reliever" (Situational/Environmental Focus)

- **The Action:** Look around your immediate neighbourhood, workplace, or local community for a small area that is "groaning" or neglected.
- **The Practice:** Intentionally bring God's order and care to it. This could mean picking up litter at a local park, staying behind to clean up a messy breakroom at work, or bringing a meal to a neighbor going through a chaotic season. Do it as a quiet prayer of renewal for that space.

Challenge 3: The Reconciliation Text (Corporate Focus)

- **The Action:** Think of a relationship in your life that has grown cold, distant, or fractured due to a misunderstanding or a minor conflict.

- **The Practice:** Send a simple, low-pressure text or email to initiate a fresh start. It doesn't have to solve the whole problem at once. Try something like: *"Hey, I've been thinking about you lately and value our history. I'd love to grab a coffee sometime soon just to catch up and see how you're doing."*
-

CLOSING PRAYER BLUEPRINT

Use this prayer structure to wrap up your session. It translates the theological concepts you discussed into a heartfelt, communal response. You can read it as written or use the bolded bullet points as prompts.

Leader's Prompt: *"As we close tonight, let's take a moment of silence to bring our messy situations, our tired minds, and our broken world before the God who makes all things new."*

(Allow for 10–15 seconds of silence)

"Father God,

We praise You because You are not a God who abandons what is broken. You do not discard us, and You do not give up on this world. You are the Great Restorer.

- **For our Hearts:** We ask right now for individual renewal. Wash away our old habits, our stale routines, and our hidden sins. Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us this week.
- **For our Relationships:** We pray for our community and our church. Where there is division, hostility, or coldness, let Your Holy Spirit build bridges. Make us a living preview of Your new humanity to a watching world.
- **For our World:** We lift up the broken situations and groaning places we discussed tonight. Give us the courage to not just sit back, but to step into those spaces as agents of Your renewal, bringing order, beauty, and love wherever we go.

Thank You that our ultimate future is secure, and that one day You will wipe away every tear and finish the work You started. Guard our hearts as we go out this week.

In Jesus' name, Amen."

GROUP HANDOUT TEMPLATE

Copy, paste, and adjust this text into a document to print out or email to your small group members.

SMALL GROUP STUDY: ALL THINGS NEW

Key Verse: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* — 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Four Horizons of Renewal

1. **The Individual:** God creates a clean heart and a renewed mind (**Psalm 51:10, Romans 12:2**).
 2. **The Corporate:** God brings dead communities to life and forms a unified, new humanity (**Ezekiel 37, Ephesians 2:15**).
 3. **The Situational/Spatial:** God steps into broken environments and turns ruin into restoration (**Nehemiah 8–9, Revelation 21:1–2**).
 4. **The Cosmos:** Creation will be liberated from its bondage to decay in a completely reborn universe (**Romans 8:21–22, Revelation 21:5**).
-

Discussion Questions

1. What is the practical difference between trying to change your own behaviour through sheer willpower versus asking God to *renew* your mind and spirit?
 2. In what ways should the Church act as a "sneak peek" of heaven's unity in a deeply divided world?
 3. Think of a "ruined place" or a seemingly hopeless situation in your daily life. How does the biblical promise of renewal change the way you pray for and act in that situation?
 4. If God plans to eventually renew and restore the physical earth rather than discard it completely, how should that impact the way we treat creation right now?
 5. Read **Revelation 21:1–5**. What comfort does the promise *"I am making everything new"* give you in the midst of current grief, sickness, or worldly chaos?
-

Weekly Challenge Options (Pick One)

- **Option 1 (The Mind Reset):** Identify one toxic thought pattern this week. Put **Romans 12:2** on your phone lock screen, and pray for a mental reset every time that negative thought arises.

- **Option 2 (The Groan Reliever):** Find a neglected space or person in your neighbourhood or workplace. Intentionally bring God's order or comfort to it (e.g., picking up litter, cleaning a shared space, or making a meal).
 - **Option 3 (The Reconciliation Text):** Send a low-pressure text to initiate a fresh start with a friend, family member, or coworker where a relationship has grown cold or strained.
-

Verses for the Week

- **Romans 12:2:** *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*
 - **Revelation 21:5:** *"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'"*
-

BACKGROUND WORSHIP PLAYLIST: "ALL THINGS NEW"

These songs perfectly match the theme of biblical renewal. You can play them softly in the background as people arrive, or use them to transition into your opening icebreaker.

1. **"New Wine" – Hillsong Worship**
 - *Theme:* Individual surrender and renewal through crushing/testing.
 - *Lyric Anchor:* *"In the crushing, in the pressing, You are making new wine..."*
2. **"Make All Things New" – Ben Shive (or versions by Rain for Roots)**
 - *Theme:* Chronicling the big biblical story of cosmic and situational restoration.
 - *Lyric Anchor:* *"You make all things new, yes, You make all things new..."*
3. **"All Things New" – Big Daddy Weave**
 - *Theme:* The personal relief and freedom of a fresh start in Christ.
 - *Lyric Anchor:* *"You made me new, You made me new, my life is changed..."*
4. **"All Things New" – Rivers & Robots**

- *Theme:* Deeply theological, leaning heavily into the future restoration of the cosmos.
 - *Lyric Anchor:* "Behold, He is making all things new..."
-

MID-WEEK ENCOURAGEMENT MESSAGES

Here are two distinct options you can copy, paste, and drop into your group's text chat or email thread about 3 days after your meeting.

Option 1: The Casual & Action-Oriented Text (Best for WhatsApp/iMessage)

"Hey group! Just wanted to say thanks for an amazing discussion on Monday night. I'm still processing what it looks like that God is making 'all things new'—especially in our messy, everyday situations.

Just a gentle mid-week check-in: which application challenge did you pick for this week? (Mind Reset, Groan Reliever, or Reconciliation Text?). I'm praying for us all as we try to be agents of His renewal in our neighbourhoods and workplaces today. See you all next week! 🙌"

Option 2: The Deep & Reflective Message (Best for Email/Long-form Post)

"Hi everyone,

I've been thinking a lot about our discussion on Romans 8 and the 'groaning' of creation. It is so easy to look at the news, our workplaces, or even our own hearts and feel overwhelmed by things that seem broken or stagnant.

But remember the massive truth we uncovered: Our God is not passive about decay. He is actively at work, day by day, making all things new from the inside out.

If you are facing a situation today that feels totally ruined or completely dry, take 30 seconds right now to pray: *'Lord, create something new here. Renew my spirit.'*

Can't wait to catch up next week and hear how your challenges went!

Blessings,

[Your Name]"

TIMELINES FOR A 60 OR 90-MINUTE MEETING

Option 1: The 60-Minute Fast-Paced Timeline

Best for weeknight groups or environments with strict time limits.

- 00:00–00:10 | Welcome & Icebreaker (10 mins)

- Play background music softly as people arrive.
 - Launch straight into your chosen **Icebreaker** (e.g., *"The Clean Slate"*) to get everyone talking immediately.
 - **00:10–00:15 | Scripture Reading & Theme Intro (5 mins)**
 - Briefly introduce the "All Things New" theme.
 - Have volunteers read the foundational texts: **Psalms 51:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17, and Revelation 21:1–5.**
 - **00:15–00:45 | Core Discussion (30 mins)**
 - *Tip:* In a 60-minute group, you cannot linger. Spend exactly **6–7 minutes** per question.
 - Prioritise **Questions 1, 3, and 5** for maximum personal and pastoral impact.
 - **00:45–00:55 | Weekly Challenge Selection (10 mins)**
 - Direct everyone to the **Weekly Challenge Options** on the handout.
 - Give people 2 minutes of silence to choose one challenge, then go around the circle quickly so each person can declare their choice.
 - **00:55–01:00 | Closing Prayer (5 mins)**
 - Read the **Closing Prayer Blueprint**, allowing a brief window of silence for personal reflection before you pray out loud.
-

Option 2: The 90-Minute Deep-Dive Timeline

Best for groups that love to linger, share deeply, and pray for one another extensively.

- **00:00–00:15 | Fellowship & Snacks (15 mins)**
 - Keep the background music playing. Allow casual conversation, coffee, and catching up to happen naturally.
- **00:15–00:25 | The Icebreaker (10 mins)**
 - Gather everyone into the circle. Run **"The Restoration Project"** icebreaker to shift gears into the night's theme.
- **00:25–00:35 | Setting the Stage (10 mins)**
 - Read the scriptures dynamically.

- Use the "**Four Horizons of Renewal**" summary from the handout to give a quick, 3-minute mini-teaching on how big this theme actually is.
- **00:35–01:10 | Deep-Dive Discussion (35 mins)**
 - You have time to thoroughly hit all **5 Discussion Questions** (roughly 7 minutes each).
 - Utilise your **Leader's Notes** to guide the conversation when group members stall or go off-topic.
- **01:10–01:25 | Challenge & Ministry Time (15 mins)**
 - Have everyone select their **Weekly Challenge**.
 - Break into pairs or groups of three to share *why* they chose that specific challenge and how they plan to pull it off.
- **01:25–01:30 | Closing Corporate Prayer (5 mins)**
 - Reconvene and seal the night using the **Closing Prayer Blueprint**.