



| GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE |

— WELCOME LETTER —

Renewal, transformation, and God's will. It's what we long for in every area of our lives and what we're specifically seeking in the area of sexuality through Renew.

Human sexuality was created to be a beautiful thing, yet we live in a world marred by the pain and shame of human sexuality being broken and twisted into something it was never intended to be. A common response to this brokenness in some unhealthy Christian circles is to act as if we are above or untouched by it, even straying so far from the topic as to never speak of it. Ultimately, this creates a culture of hiding, secrecy, and shame, which is not what healthy Christian community was created to be.

God called the church to be a beacon of light; a place of freedom and openness in loving communion with him and one another. The purpose of Renew is to be just that. Where the church has often shied away from speaking on sexuality, Renew leans in, taking a strong stance on truth found in the pages of Scripture, all while embracing the fact we are all created differently with unique experiences, environments, and beliefs that effect how we approach this topic.

Renew is intended to be a jumping point, a starting place for healthy conversation that sheds light on God's true intention for human sexuality. It's a safe space for us to come with all our brokenness, questions, hurt, shame, and guilt in order to find freedom and transformation through the love of Jesus.

As you journey through these discussions, it is our prayer that God would give you an open, receiving spirit and that you would allow him to infiltrate your heart, filling it with grace and a deepened understanding.

We can't wait to see what God teaches us through our time together.
Thanks for joining in the conversation.

The Renew Team

— INTRODUCTION —

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Goals of Renew:

- *Renewal*
- *Transformation*
- *Gods Will*

The Message of Renew:

We are all broken and to pretend we aren't only results in _____ that hurts us and pushes others away. Our brokenness results in us _____ in things, desires, and people that will only lead us down a path of shame and emptiness. While it isn't a culturally popular position, the only way through this brokenness is to _____, choose to do it differently, and seek to be _____.

This process will look different for everyone because we are a beautiful, diverse, unique creation. But the God who made us loves us enough to _____.

DISCUSSION NOTES:

DISCUSSION NOTES CONTINUED:

FORMAT OF RENEW:

The 6 videos will cover 3 major introductory topics:

- 1) *Morality* - Where do we get our morals from and what impact (if any) should they have on how we live our lives?
- 2) *Broken Sexuality* - What impact has the fall had on sexuality and how can we better understand sexual brokenness in a way that allows us to be compassionate and loving to ALL people?
- 3) *Biblical Sexuality* - What does God have to say about our sexuality and who we are in him? How might being a Christian impact the way we express our sexuality?

The goal will not be to indoctrinate anyone, change anyone's mind, or facilitate space for debate. Each week is aimed at creating space for conversations that may be hard to have otherwise.

TAKEAWAYS:

PRAYER:

Thank God for the gift of community where we can grow and learn together. Also thank him for the gift of sexuality. Pray for openness and vulnerability as we move through this content together over the next few weeks. Ask God to help us grow in our love and compassion for a broken and hurting world. Pray that we be bonded together with safety in our conversations. And finally, pray that we can embrace this uncomfortable process unhindered by shame or self-consciousness.



ALIVE WESLEYAN CHURCH