



A 4-week small group that teaches you how to LIVE life as a Jesus Follower, establishing a relationship with Jesus and learn daily habits that will keep you in Christ and help you grow. Each week will cover a different topic and its very important that you attend each week.



If you are a mature and seasoned believer you can start here! Discover Awaken is a two-week small group to help you learn more about the mission and vision of Awaken Las Vegas to find your place to serve and grow in this community.

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# THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

## NEW OR OLD? YOU CHOOSE

Ephesians 4:17-24

WEEK 15

**When you experience Jesus, you change.  
Because you have been changed.**

It seems to me that there is a fascination with television shows that focus on improvement. Take, for instance, the shows that improve buildings. Shows such as Property Brothers, Bar Rescue, Fixer Upper, Extreme Home Makeover, and one Rachel and I enjoyed for a minute, Maine Cabin Masters. Something within us appreciates seeing things that are broken and run down, fixed up and made like new. I say 'like new' because they aren't new. While there's been a lot of construction work done, it's still the old bones of the building.

Jesus is in the restoration business but not for homes, cabins, or bars. He restores lives. Not only that, He doesn't just do a makeover with old materials; He makes a person brand new. In other words, He doesn't restore you by improving the old you but by making you altogether new. The contrast between the old and new you cannot be overstated. They are vastly different, and the differences show as you choose to put on the new you, which is made in the likeness of God, and put off the old you, which was lost in spiritual darkness, alienated from God, and calloused to righteousness. When you put on the new you, there is evidence of Christ's light that He was worked in you, working out through you by living in holiness and righteousness.

So, what is it going to be? Will you live to the old, broken down, spiritually darkened you? Or will you put on the new you made in the likeness of Christ? The choice is yours.

### **(10 min) OPENING PRAYER**

Pray that God will permeate your time with His presence. Ask God to help you see the fundamental distinction between the behavior of the old you and the behavior of the new you.

### **(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER**

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Based on these verses, describe life before you met Jesus. Discuss what it means to have a darkened understanding, to be alienated from God, and to have a calloused and hardened heart.
2. Jesus delivers us from our darkness. If our understanding was darkened, what is it now? If we are alienated from God, what are we now? If our hearts were hardened, what are they now? Describe each of these in detail.

**2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."**

3. Paul strongly exhorts these Christians not to fall back into a lifestyle or behavior that resembles someone who has never experienced Jesus. Is there any temptation or behavior you are falling back into that you need to bring to God in confession and repentance?
4. What does it mean to put off the old self and put on the new self? How can you do that practically, daily?

**Grow to know who you are in Christ and choose to live in that new you.**

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: *John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

**EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER:** Spend time as a life group praying and discussing the key things that emerge from your discussion of this week's questions. Work through behaviors that characterize the old self and new self in deeper detail. What justifications do we use to live to the old self? Encourage one another to live to the new self.

### **(5 min) LIVE IT**

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer and dedicate daily time to reading Scripture. Every morning, as you pray and reach, choose to put on the new self made in God's image according to righteousness and holiness. Be intentional about putting off behaviors or ways of thinking that reflect who you used to be instead of who God has made you to be.