

# *Happy New You* *“Gone for Good”*

## PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Your task will be to review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

## DISCUSSION

### **Opening Prayer:** (1-5 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week’s message, here’s some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Thank the Lord for your year in 2019! Thank God for coming to us in the form of His one and only son to put the law of sin that rules the flesh to death on the cross in order to offer us a new life in Christ by faith in Jesus. Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would open our eyes to the reality of the new creation and life transformation that God is providing us daily so that we may live an abundant life in Christ!

### **Discussion:** (30 minutes)

#### What’s Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Larry led us into the first of our two-week mini-series titled *Happy New You*. Pastor Larry focused our attention on Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 5:17 in order to pinpoint what it is that we can leave behind as the new year approaches. Pastor Larry uses excerpts from Paul’s writings to show how faith in Jesus and his work on the cross has put to death our hostility towards God, sin’s penalty against us, our sinful identity, the chains of our sins, and our regrettable past as we anticipate new transformation that we experience in Christ.

**“One thing to leave behind in the old year is your old self!”– Pastor Larry Vold**

## Suggested Questions

**Check-In:** Review *2 Corinthians 5:11-21* – Our new series will talk about how faith in Jesus and his work on the cross will transform you into a humble and obedient Christlike servant! Before your discussion, spend some time reflecting on your Christmas season! Where have you realized God’s grace in your life and how you are being called to humbly obey God’s calling in your life?

**Study Tip:** Our key text this series was written to the church at Corinth. Paul spent a year and a half ministering as a tentmaker in the Roman port city that was founded by the Greeks and became a prominent center of culture and trade (Acts 18:1-11). After his brief stay, Paul writes *1 Corinthians* to challenge the cities dependence on worldly wisdom (1 Cor. 1:18-31). However, Paul is rejected for his low status upon his “painful” return, causing him to write a “severe” letter that motivates Corinth to see the message and not the messenger (2 Cor. 1:15-2:4, 7:8-12). *2 Corinthians 5*, then, is written as the conclusion of Paul’s encouragement urging cities of prominence (like the Bay Area) to adopt a spirit of humility lest we boast in anyone other than God. Throughout the study guide, recognize that Paul is writing to us so that we may boast in Christ’s work on the cross alone (2 Cor. 3:1, 6:4, 10:17, 11:30)

- **Objective #1: Celebrate a reconciled relationship with God / demolished rule of Satan.**

*Primary Texts – Colossians 1:13, 21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19* – Two of the six aspects of our sinful nature that the gospel puts to death involves spiritual relationships. Pastor Larry mentions that as sinners, we are hostile towards God and Satan has dominion over us. As you reflect on 2019, how have you seen God bring you into a deeper relationship with Him and the power of Satan decrease in your life? If this was not your overall trajectory in 2019, what do you believe needs to change?

*Supporting Texts – (Hostility) Gen. 3; Rom. 5:1-2; 1 Jn. 2:2 / (Identity) Eph. 5:8, Phil. 3:20; Jn. 8:31-47*

- **Objective #2: Celebrate freedom from death / freedom to recognize God’s truth.**

*Primary Texts – Colossians 2:13-15; 2 Corinthians 5:16* – The next two aspects of our sinful nature that the gospel puts to death involves sin and it’s consequences in our lives. Pastor Larry mentions that as sinners, we are spiritually blind in this world and we are under the ultimate penalty of sin. As you look forward to 2020, how do you feel Jesus is calling you to walk more boldly with Him knowing that you are freed from sin’s penalty and God is guiding your vision through the Holy Spirit?

*Supporting Texts – (Penalty) Rom. 6:1-2, 23, 8:1-4; Col. 3:1-14 / (Darkness) Jn. 9:35-41; 2 Cor. 4:1-6; Acts 26:12-18, 1 Cor. 2:6-16*

- **Objective #3: Celebrate permanent forgiveness of our past / on-going forgiveness in our future!**

*Primary Texts – Romans 6:6-7; Philippians 3:13-14:* The final two aspects of our sinful nature that the gospel puts to death involves our past and our future. Pastor Larry mentions that as sinners, we are under the chains of sin as a power source and we have a paralyzing regret of our past. As we transition into the new decade, what part of your past do you need to leave behind? How can we pray that you continue to strive forward alongside of Jesus?

*Supporting Texts – (Chains) Titus 2:11 / (Regret) Rom. 8:28*

**Closing Prayer:** (5-15 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank our Heavenly Father for choosing to gracefully open our eyes and hearts to His truth! Pray that as we move into the new year, the Holy Spirit would continue to open our eyes to our next steps and how we can draw closer to Him!

**THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**-Further Reading and Exploration!** *Read Romans 1—8:* The first segment of the book of Romans explains a good amount of what it means to die to the flesh and live in the Spirit of God living in us through the power of Jesus. Paul wrote this book in order to show that there was no more division between Jew and Gentile, but all were under the curse of sin and Jesus came to die on the cross so that our old self might die with Him and we may put on the life of Christ. As you read this selection this week, pay special attention to all of the attributes of the sinful nature that have been put to death!

**- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week!** Pray that they would continue to find new ways to experience God's grace as they remember that God has decided to move His will forward through their humility!

**- Sign-Ups for the New Community Group Season begin January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020!** If you have any questions, feel free to email AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)