

RENEW



heart • soul • mind • strength



RENEW Introduction and setting up your event

Kick-off Logistics:

This is the kick-off for all the lessons and the entire event. Spend some time laying the ground rules and explaining the schedule for the event.

Here are some things to consider talking about:

1. Tell students why your church or ministry is doing this event. Cast the vision for students to know why it's important and why the church values them.
2. Let students know what they can expect from this weekend. For example: a chance to worship God, learn more about following Christ, to have a lot of fun and eat really good food, get some quality time with friends, have ministry leaders to invest in them, get answers to tough questions.
3. Let students know what is expected of them. For example: coming to all the sessions, being honest, treating the host homes with care.

Speaker Note: These Large Group Outlines are designed to give you a foundation to speak from. They are full of optional illustrations, object lessons, and anecdotes that you can use as much or as little as you'd like.

*Don't forget the Intro Video included in your *RENEW* download to use during this first Large Group Talk!

*Be sure to view any illustration video clips ahead of time.

*Also included in your *RENEW* download are PowerPoint backgrounds to use with these Large Group Outlines or any other place you see fitting to make your event great!

RENEW Introduction

Ask: *What happens when someone starts following Jesus? What goes on inside them? What changes in their life?*

Read: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Say Something Like: *Following Christ turns our lives completely upside-down. All of a sudden, our words and our actions have kingdom weight to them, we're adopted into a family where the God of the universe is our dad, we're attached to Someone who actually knows our future and who knows us better than we know ourselves, and we can even have conversations with Someone who has more power than all the superheroes put together! But sometimes it feels like our lives don't change that much. We face the same problems and*

Large Group Talk: Introduction

struggle with the same temptations. People still disappoint us, and we still make mistakes. The thing is, it takes time and effort for our lives to sync up with our new status as followers of Christ. Yes, when we follow Christ we are God's children and we have a completely new identity. But our bad habits and attitudes take some time to change. Our identity is new, but our heart, mind, strength, and soul are still being renewed. That's what this weekend and these next sessions are all about: the ways God slowly changes our lives to reflect the fact that we are disciples of Christ. You may have heard this verse before:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30).

In many ways, this verse sums up what it means to follow Christ. But we can't start loving God in these ways all at once or on our own. We need to redirect these parts of our lives and let God renew them, starting with our hearts.