

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Renovate Renewal

“Joining Jesus”

John 5:16-19, Is 58:12

March 12th

Main Idea:

Join Jesus where he is working

1 year ago Friends Church Orange embarked on a journey to renovate the Packinghouse. We titled this project Renovate: City and Soul. We believe that God was calling us to plant deeply in the city of Orange, and to be a part of renovating the city and the souls of the people within our community. Now, 1 year in, we are seeing God deliver on the hopes and dreams he placed on our hearts. We are truly seeing that we have joined Jesus where he is working, as we have seen many lives changed by the heart of the gospel! As we enter into these Discovery Questions, we want to remember that we stepped out in faith, and God has proven Himself faithful as we have followed His son into this new adventure.

1. Have you ever had a big project not go as planned? Share the story with the group.

2. Read John 5:16-19.

- a. What do we learn about Jesus’s relationship to His Father (God) through this passage?**
- b. What is it about what Jesus said that made the Pharisees want to kill him?**

Read Isaiah 58:12 (We encourage you to read the Message paraphrase of this passage)

- c. The imagery that Isaiah uses here is one of building. What words, phrases, and thoughts stick out to you from this passage?**
- d. What are the ways that the Israelites are told they are going to impact the world around them?**

In John 5:19 Jesus states that “...he (Jesus) can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” If Jesus is following God, and we are following Jesus’s example, then we can know that we are following God. It is this motivation and inner drive that gives perspective as we go about the work in front of us. These next questions deal with motivations, and ultimately how we see God motivating towards being a part of what Jesus is doing in our city.

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3. In this world, we see many different motivations for our actions.
 - a. When you look at the world around you, what do you think motivates people to take on seemingly impossible projects?
 - b. Have you ever seen someone take on a big challenge that was inspired by God? What was the result of that action that came from faith?

4. When seeking to join Jesus where he is working, we sometimes struggle to know where we can join in.
 - a. Where do you see Jesus working in the world around us?
 - b. If we are called to be renovators, and we believe Jesus is working through our church as we seek to renovate the city and souls of the people in our community, then where do you think you could get involved in this process?

5. We started Renovate: City & Soul one year ago.
 - a. If you were a part of Renovate at the beginning, share your experience with the group and how God has grown you through this project.
 - b. If you are new to Renovate, or have not jumped in yet, where do you think God is calling you to participate? How can you be a part of where Jesus is working?

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Facilitator Guide

1 year ago Friends Church Orange embarked on a journey to renovate the Packinghouse. We titled this project Renovate: City and Soul. We believe that God was calling us to plant deeply in the city of Orange, and to be a part of renovating the city and the souls of the people within our community. Now, 1 year in, we are seeing God deliver on the hopes and dreams he placed on our hearts. We are truly seeing that we have joined Jesus where he is working, as we have seen many lives changed by the heart of the gospel! As we enter into these Discovery Questions, we want to remember that we stepped out in faith, and God has proven Himself faithful as we have followed His son into this new adventure.

1. Have you ever had a big project not go as planned? Share the story with the group.

This is a light question to get the conversation started.

Spend 5 minutes on this question.

2. Read John 5:16-19.

- a. What do we learn about Jesus's relationship to His Father (God) through this passage?**
- b. What is it about what Jesus said that made the Pharisees want to kill him?**

Read Isaiah 58:12 (We encourage you to read the Message paraphrase of this passage)

- c. The imagery that Isaiah uses here is one of building. What words, phrases, and thoughts stick out to you from this passage?**
- d. What are the ways that the Israelites are told they are going to impact the world around them?**

For part a) we see that Jesus knows what his work is (v. 17) and that his work is what the Father is also working on (v.19). This seems to make it clear that Jesus has a singular focus.

For part b) the Pharisees want to kill Jesus because he was saying God was his Father, making him equal to God (v.18).

For part c), some phrases or words may be:

- *Old rubble of past lives*
- *Build anew*
- *Rebuild foundations from the past*
- *Fix anything*
- *Restore old ruins*
- *Rebuild*
- *Renovate*
- *Make community livable again*

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For part d) the answer may seem straight forward. But in this passage, Isaiah is speaking specifically to the Israelites about rebuilding and renovating their own lives. The language speaks to both internal and external renovations of their hearts, lives, and community.

Spend 15 minutes on this question

In John 5:19 Jesus states that "...he (Jesus) can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." If Jesus is following God, and we are following Jesus's example, then we can know that we are following God. It is this motivation and inner drive that gives perspective as we go about the work in front of us. These next questions deal with motivations, and ultimately how we see God motivating towards being a part of what Jesus is doing in our city.

3. In this world, we see many different motivations for our actions.

- a. When you look at the world around you, what do you think motivates people to take on seemingly impossible projects?**
- b. Have you ever seen someone take on a big challenge that was inspired by God? What was the result of that action that came from faith?**

For part a) we find that people are motivated by a myriad of things. Encourage the group to dig deep into the "why" behind some of the more extreme risks people have taken.

For part b) we may find that some of the people who "risked much" for God ended up looking like they failed. In your group, discuss how that has had an impact on these people. Encourage the group to also discuss when they have seen God come through in some pretty miraculous ways.

Spend 5-7 minutes on this question.

4. When seeking to join Jesus where he is working, we sometimes struggle to know where we can join in.

- a. Where do you see Jesus working in the world around us?**
- b. If we are called to be renovators, and we believe Jesus is working through our church as we seek to renovate the city and souls of the people in our community, then where do you think you could get involved in this process?**

For part a) encourage people to look at the world at large, and then to take it more specific to the areas that they have specific influence and experience in. This should evoke some cool stories and expanding of our understanding of where Jesus is at work.

For part b) you will find that people in your group may not have any clue as to where they can get involved. One suggestion is to start by asking the questions "what needs to be done" when you look at your neighborhood or workplace. While this question is meant to invoke

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thoughts about actions, group members may also want to include how they are participating in the campaign. Encourage those answers to hold off until the next question.

Spend 10 minutes on this question.

5. We started Renovate: City & Soul one year ago.

- a. If you were a part of Renovate at the beginning, share your experience with the group and how God has grown you through this project.**
- b. If you are new to Renovate, or have not jumped in yet, where do you think God is calling you to participate? How can you be a part of where Jesus is working?**

For these questions, encourage good discussion and participation. If your group has not been going through the prayer guide that was handed out a few weeks ago, remind them that they can still go through that to engage with God is doing. This is the week for taking the next step in either renewing a commitment to Renovate, or to make a first-time commitment. Gently guide your group to come to some decisions about they are going to individually join with what Jesus is doing through Friends Church Orange.

Spend 10 minutes on this question.