

Q. What is the New Creation Group Covenant?

A. All participants must make the following three commitments to one another before a group begins:

Confidentiality Commitment: I am committed to holding as sacred another member's confession and will not discuss it outside of the group with anyone unless agreed upon by all others in the group. The only exception to this confidence is if a member refuses to address a sin after many conversations. Only then will I inform someone, and only a pastor or respected leader of the church.

Time Commitment: I will be emotionally and physically present. I commit to meeting weekly at a time and location agreed upon by the group. I will be punctual, respecting the time and commitment of the other participants. If I cannot attend a meeting, I will call someone in the group who will be present to report my absence.

Submission Commitment: I am committed to each person's growth and development in Christ. I will submit to the Holy Spirit and to each member of my group "in the Lord," so that His righteousness is worked out over time in every area of my life. I will speak the truth in love and grant permission for others to speak into my life.

Q. What happens if a person in my group breaks his/her commitment?

A. If one member of a group breaks a confidence or commitment the other two members must confront the member in love. If the matter cannot be resolved, the members should notify the New Creation Group Directors, and ask for help. They will help you resolve the problem and take whatever action that is necessary for reconciliation.

Q. I'm still fearful. What should I do?

A. While your fears are natural, the best way for you to grow is to enter the commitment by faith and allow God to work in and through you. Character is formed most by making and keeping commitments.

Q. How do I form a New Creation Group?

A. It's simple. Just find two people who will covenant with you to meet in a New Creation Group. You are encouraged to form your own group, but if this isn't possible for you, we can help you find a group.

Q. Does it have to be three people in each group?

A. Yes. We have found that three per group is the ideal number. Two is too few. More than three makes the meetings much longer and people tend to miss more meetings.

Q. I'm afraid of being rejected. What should I do?

A. It is risky to make yourself vulnerable. If you would like us to help you find two other people, just ask for help and we will assist you in finding the right group.

Q. What if my group does not work out?

A. It may take some time for a group to establish itself and build trust. Give your group time. Not all groups are successful, however. If you have any problem, let us know. We will help your group work it out, or we can help you find another group. Just let us know.

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Answers
to your
Questions
about
New
Creation
Groups
at
Nazareth

Q. What is a New Creation Group?

A. New Creation Groups are groups of three people, all of the same gender, who meet weekly for personal accountability and encouragement in their spiritual growth and development.

Q. Why do I need this accountability group?

A. Periodically throughout Jesus's ministry, he left the crowds and went with his disciples to a quiet place. Often he took Peter and James or John with him. You can imagine what these intimate gatherings must have been like for each man as they laughed, cried, prayed and shared their heart's concern with one another.

Do you have this kind of safe place where you can share and pray with a few friends in Christ? New Creation Groups create such a place for you, a place to grow in your spiritual life, a place where you have the privilege of coming alongside to help and support two other people in their spiritual journey.

Q. What will we do in a New Creation Group?

A. Each New Creation Group will pray together, read Scripture together, bear one another's burdens, and encourage one another in your spiritual journey.

Q. Don't I have to be trained to do this?

A. No. There is no curriculum or training needed. All you need is faith—to let God open your heart and to let the Holy Spirit reveal truth to you and others. The best way to learn and grow is to just start meeting.

Q. What will be expected of me?

A. Each group will learn to practice three essential spiritual disciplines designed to help you grow:

1. Confessing personal sin
2. Listening to and interacting with Scripture, and
3. Praying for others who need the love of Christ.

Q. What do you mean by confessing sin?

A. There are times in every person's life when new habits must be developed with the help of the Holy Spirit and the community in order to overcome sin. The New Creation Group is designed to help you to remember and to practice your commitments before God and the community. Practice is navigated through a list of accountability questions designed to bring to remembrance any sin that may need to be confessed.

Q. What are the accountability questions?

A. Each time you meet, each person will answer five accountability questions.

- In what ways has God spoken to you (through Scripture, prayer or meditation) since we last met?
- What temptations have you encountered since we last met? (gossip, passing judgment, financial dealings, anger, sexual sin, etc.) How did you respond?
- How is God calling you to change? What disciplines or practices do you need help with to be holy in this area of your life?
- What opportunities has God given you to serve people in need since we last met? How did you respond?
- What opportunities have you taken to share the Salvation Story with someone since we last met?

Q. Do we have to ask these questions?

A. We ask all to submit to the spirit of the system more than the letter of the law. The questions are meant to stimulate open sharing but they are not themselves an exhaustive list of all that sin is, nor do they define what true righteousness is. Simply answering the questions does not necessarily solidify one's righteousness. We must follow Jesus. The questions are only tools to help you in your pursuit of Jesus, the One who saves us from our sins.

Q. What happens if someone resists confession or refuses to change?

A. New Creation Groups are designed to help us learn how to be a community where we are all committed to each other's growth and development in Christ. This is our unifying goal. Such a group requires trust and honesty. Although each time of confession—seeking out truth, working out salvation—is generally directed by the individual, there may be times when the group may need to speak the truth in love with care and non-coercion. This will generally concern a repeated pattern that needs recognition, accountability and repentance. Each member should be open to this in their lives, and the group as a whole must be careful to consider the trust, safety, and love required for such a situation to be of the Spirit. Such trust is essential. The premise of the group is that each person will submit to the Holy Spirit and to each other "in the Lord," so that His righteousness is worked out over time in every area of our lives in this place.

Q. I'm concerned about gossip and triangulation. How do I know that what I share will remain confidential?

A. What happens in the group, stays in the group. Each member is committed to holding as sacred another member's confession and will not discuss it outside of the group with anyone unless agreed upon by all others in the group or unless a member refuses to address a sin after many conversations.

Q. What kind of assurance do I have of this commitment?

A. The first time you meet with your group you will review and sign the New Creation Group Covenant together.