

CHANGE

Groups Curriculum



NewSpring,

Thank you for being willing to take your next step by joining a Group! I am SO EXCITED about everything Jesus is doing in our church, and I know the best is yet to come! I believe during Change, we will see more next steps taken than we have ever seen before!

If you embrace the idea of Change and are willing to take next steps with your Group, Jesus will do immeasurably more in your life over the next six weeks than you could imagine. I am praying that Change happens in every Group and in every home across our state this year.

Thank you again for joining a Group and for being willing to take your next step. I am excited about everything Jesus will do in your life through these Groups and I can't wait to hear your story of Change.

**The best is yet to come!
Perry Noble
Senior Pastor**

How to use this Groups Guide:

Big Idea:

This section will introduce you to the focus of each week.

Watch:

Every week, your Group will meet together and watch a 5–10 minute video. The goal of each video is to introduce the Big Idea and for your Group to see a story of what Change looks like when it is lived out.

Discuss:

There are a few discussion questions each week that will help your Group further explore the Big Idea. Group discussion will allow you to better understand what God wants to do in your life and build relationships with your fellow Group participants.

Next Steps:

The Next Steps section in your guide is to help you think through and identify any next steps you may need to take to see Change happen in your life. You will discuss these as a Group.

Pray:

Each week your Group will wrap up by praying for each other and praying for potential next steps that come out of the session.

Week 1:

Change My Story

**“Jesus wants to change our lives
because He wants greater things for
us than we could ever imagine.”**

Big Idea:

My _____ changes when I meet _____.

Watch: Check out the video for Week 1

As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him. —Matthew 9:9

Discuss:

Every Christian can relate to Mike's story. Mike was stuck and ashamed of his past. Mike met Jesus. Mike's story changed.

- Talk to the Group about when Jesus saved you and how He has changed your story.
- Mike says fear kept him from trusting Jesus. Has there been a time in your life when you overcame fear? Would you characterize that as a good experience or bad experience? Why?
- Are there any current fears in your life that are holding you back from doing something you know you should do?

Matthew was a dishonest tax collector—that was his story. He was a sinner who needed a Savior. Matthew met Jesus and his story changed.

- What does it say about Jesus that He would call someone with a sinful past like Matthew's to get up and follow Him?
- Jesus is not hindered by our past. Why do you think it is so easy for us to be entangled by shame or regret from our past? How does Jesus's response to Matthew change the way you view your past?

Read Philippians 1:6. God always finishes the work He begins in our lives. Jesus changes our stories by saving us from our sins and the longer we follow Him, the more we continue to change.

- Jesus changes our stories when we meet Him, and we continue to change as we get to know Him. How is Jesus currently changing your life?
- Do you feel stuck right now? Why or why not?

Next Steps:

Help your Group identify what next steps you need to take together.

- Have you ever accepted Jesus and trusted Him to forgive your sins? If not, what is keeping you back from making that decision now?
- Do you feel stuck? What steps can you take this week to start the process of change?
- Do you know people who need Jesus to change their stories? Pray for them and invite them to church this week!

Pray:

Take this opportunity to thank Jesus for changing your story. Pray for everyone in your Group to continue the process of change. Pray for people you know who need Jesus to change their stories. Thank Jesus for the example of Matthew whose story changed immediately after meeting Jesus.

Notes:

Week 2:

Change My Direction

**“You will never reach your potential
in Christ if you don’t take
the step right in front of you.”**

Big Idea:

Changing my _____ starts with one _____.

Watch: Check out the video for Week 2

As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him. —Matthew 9:9

Discuss:

You can't change your past but you can be obedient to the Lord in your present. In his story, Attila talks about the next steps he took: Ownership class, reading his Bible, baptism and volunteering. Attila was obedient to everything God asked him to do.

- Is it important to immediately obey what God is asking us to do? Why or why not?
- Do you think the Lord blesses us when we are obedient in the next steps He asks us to take? Why or why not?
- Tell us about a time in your life when Jesus asked you to take a next step and you were immediately obedient.

Jesus asked Matthew to take one next step and his willingness to do so led him to a change in direction.

- Jesus said, "Follow me," and Matthew got up and followed Him. What does this immediate response show about Matthew's faith?
- When Jesus changed your story, do you feel like He changed the direction in which your life was heading?
- Do you feel like Jesus is still changing your direction? Why or why not?

Matthew took his next step and he took it immediately. He didn't make excuses or tell Jesus that it wasn't the right timing. Matthew went from being a sinful tax collector to a follower of Jesus by immediately taking the next step Jesus asked him to take. We don't become perfect Christians the moment we take each next step, but it's a process of obedience God uses to change us.

- We are too often worried about our past circumstances to listen to what Jesus is presently telling us to do. How can you listen to Jesus and take your next step regardless of your past?
- What are some common excuses we use to avoid taking the next step in front of us?

Read Acts 9: 3–7. Paul’s story is another great example of listening to Jesus and letting Him change your direction. Paul hated and persecuted Christians; he tried to destroy the church. However, Jesus wanted to make a change in Paul’s life. Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus where He told him to “get up and go into the city and I will tell you what to do.” Paul listened to Jesus and went straight to Damascus.

- Paul totally changed direction from persecuting the church to building the church. How do you think Paul felt when Jesus asked him to take his next step?
- If Jesus can change Paul’s direction, how able is He to change your direction? What are some things you can learn from Paul’s story?

Next Steps:

Help your Group identify what next steps you need to take together.

- Is there a next step Jesus is asking you to take? How can you make that happen this week? Do you need help identifying your next step? Visit www.newspring.cc/nextsteps for all the next steps we offer at NewSpring.
- Are there people you know who need to take next steps but are struggling with fear? Reach out to them this week and encourage them to take the next step Jesus is calling them to take.

Pray:

Thank Jesus for changing your direction. Ask Jesus to let everyone in the Group know what next steps they should take. Ask for boldness to immediately take the next steps Jesus is telling you to take.

Notes:

Week 3:

Change My Relationships

**“The only prerequisite for
telling others about Jesus is
knowing Jesus.”**

Big Idea:

My _____ are on _____.

Watch: Check out the video for Week 3.

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." —Matthew 9:10-13

Discuss:

When Nelson Bishop gave his life to Jesus, it changed those closest to him. His story is a great example of how Jesus can change your relationships. A simple invitation changed the lives of Nelson's close friends and co-workers.

- Have you ever changed someone's life by inviting him or her to church? Tell us about how that person's life was changed.
- Changing your relationships is about being intentional with the people in your life. How can you be more intentional with the relationships you already have?

Whether good or bad, people always notice change. When that change is good, it can lead to conversation because we are excited to share what happened to us. When Jesus changes our stories, our relationships have new purpose because those relationships are chances for our story to impact someone else.

- When Jesus changed your story, who was the first person you told? What did you say?
- Who was the last person who told you how Jesus was changing his/her story or leading him/her to take a next step?
- Why is telling others what is changing in us an important part of that change?

People in Matthew's day probably looked at him as a lost cause. He was a tax collector, and tax collectors were seen as greedy traitors to their people. But Jesus, because He is full of grace and mercy, radically changed Matthew's story. The love of Jesus was something Matthew just couldn't keep to himself.

- What did Matthew do when Jesus changed his story?
- Why do you think these tax collectors and sinners came to the party at Matthew's house?

- What does this show you about the importance of our relationships?

These weren't strangers; they were people Matthew already knew who had probably already seen the difference Jesus had made in his life. They came because Matthew's story gave them hope. Matthew knew that these people—the ones he was in relationship with—needed to meet Jesus, so he went and invited them. He began to see that his relationships were on purpose.

- Why do you think the Pharisees were upset by what was happening at Matthew's house?
- How was Matthew's attitude different than the attitudes of the Pharisees?
- Who do you identify with most in this story—Matthew, his friends or the Pharisees? Why?

Next Steps:

Help your Group identify what next steps you need to take together.

- Who is one person that you know needs to hear about Jesus? How are you going to treat that relationship with purpose this week?
- Are there any casual relationships at work or school in which you need to make an investment and have a purposeful conversation?
- How does seeing your relationships as being on purpose change the way you go about your schedule every day?

Pray

Close by praying specifically for the people mentioned by your Group who need to hear about Jesus. Pray that your Group would start to see every relationship they have with purpose.

Notes:

Week 4:

Change My Purpose

**“Finding your purpose starts
with serving in the church.”**

Big Idea:

I was created on

_____ , for a _____,

with a _____.

Watch: Check out the video for Week 4.

Discuss:

Bradley had no idea what God's plan for his life would lead him to do, so he decided to start by serving in the church.

- Do you think it is easier for us to learn what we are “good at” by actually serving somewhere? Why or why not?
- Have you ever started something you were unsure about but grew to love over a period of time? Is there anything you need to start doing that you have been putting off?

Matthew found his purpose only after he became a follower of Jesus. Matthew's skills and abilities were useful for making a living, but they made an eternal impact once Jesus changed his purpose.

- What do you think your purpose is?
- The very things we naturally enjoy doing or can do well are often the same things Jesus wants us to use in serving the church. What would you say are your natural skills and abilities? What types of hobbies do you enjoy doing on a regular basis? How can you use these abilities for the church?

Read Ephesians 2:10. God purposefully and uniquely designed each of us. He equipped us with a purpose and a plan.

- What does it mean to you to know you were created for a specific purpose? Do you think it is possible to find a fulfilling purpose outside of a relationship with Jesus?
- Do you think you are currently spending your time doing what you were created to do? Why or why not?

Read 1 Peter 4:10. We are all created to serve. Some may think they are above serving or think they have nothing to offer, but the Bible teaches that we are all servants.

- When you think of the word “serve,” what immediately comes to mind? What helped you form this opinion?
- Every Christian is given gifts that only come once a relationship with Jesus begins. Matthew may have had the ability to write, but he was gifted to hear from God and teach others once he met Jesus. What are your gifts? How have you discovered these gifts?
- The Church is God’s plan to reach the world and the intended destination for our gifts. The reason each person has diverse gifts is because we are all meant to work together. How do you see this happening at NewSpring? What role will you play in serving at NewSpring?

Next Steps:

Help your Group identify what next steps you need to take together.

- What areas are you currently serving in within the church and outside the church? Based on what we talked about today, do you see a next step to take in this area?
- As a Group, how can we practice serving each other throughout the week?

Pray:

Thank Jesus for giving every one of us a purpose. Ask Him for the opportunity to learn more about what He has for us and the gifts He has given us. Pray for opportunities to serve well this week and live a life full of purpose. Pray for any specific prayer requests that may have come up during the Group time.

Notes:

Week 5:

Change My Finances

“If we don’t let Jesus change our finances we will never have enough money and we will never have joy.”

Big Idea:

Jesus doesn't want something _____ me; He wants something _____ me.

Watch: Check out the video for Week 5

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. —Acts 2:44-45

Discuss:

Jennifer met Jesus and knew there were next steps she had to take. She took the step of moving into her own apartment, getting baptized and making friends who loved Jesus. The toughest step for Jennifer was putting God first in her finances. If she was going to go “all in” for Jesus, then she had to put Him first in her finances.

- How can Jennifer’s story encourage us to trust God through tithing no matter what our current financial situation?
- Why do you think God asks us to tithe? Do you think it matters whether we give first or leftover money to God? Why or why not?
- Does it matter to God what we do with the other 90% of our money after the tithe? How can we best be faithful with that money as well?

Matthew was a tax collector and a thief. He was a greedy taker. But Jesus changed Matthew; he went from being a taker to a giver. Jesus knew that Matthew couldn’t fully experience joy until he changed the way he viewed money.

- Is Matthew’s story similar to your story? How has Jesus changed the way you view money and possessions?
- Do you agree that we can’t fully experience joy through Jesus until we give Him our finances? Why or why not?

- Giving leads to joy, but taking the step to give is the hardest part for some of us. What holds us back from taking that step?

Read Luke 16: 13-15. “No one can serve two masters.” Matthew learned this truth and we can too when we allow Jesus to change our perspective on finances. Matthew knew he couldn’t serve money like he did before meeting Jesus. When Jesus changes you, He changes the way you view money.

- Why do you think the Bible says you can’t serve both God and money?
- What does it look like to serve money?
- Have you ever tried to serve both God and money? What was the outcome?

Next Steps:

Help your Group identify what next steps you need to take together.

- If you don’t believe God wants something for you instead of something from you, try our 90-day Tithing Challenge and see how He blesses you!
www.newspring.cc/give/challenge
- Is speaking to a financial coach your next step? If so, sign up at
www.newspring.cc/financialplanning/coaching
- Would you like to put Jesus first in your finances, but aren’t sure how to give? Visit
www.newspring.cc/give and find out how you can give at NewSpring.

Pray:

Thank Jesus for all He has given us. Pray that if we are not putting Jesus first in our finances, we would take that next step this week. Pray for boldness in giving Jesus everything we have no matter what our circumstances. Thank Him for wanting something for us and blessing us when we give to Him first.

Notes:

Week 6:

Change My Life

**“You can’t do life alone
because you can’t take next
steps alone.”**

Big Idea:

The people I spend the most _____ with will influence the _____ of my life the most.

Watch: Check out the video for Week 6

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. —Acts 1:12–14

Discuss:

Will and Melissa's Group is a great example of people taking next steps together. In the story you just watched, Will spoke about a time in his life when he struggled with an alcohol problem and depended on the guys in his Group to support him in turning away from sin. In order to continue the change Jesus starts in your life, you need people surrounding you who are willing to support you and encourage you to take next steps.

- Jesus changing your life doesn't mean that you won't struggle with sin. Like Will, we all go through times when we struggle. Why do you think it's important to have community during these times?
- Do you agree that the people you spend the most time with will influence the direction of your life the most? Why or why not?

Let's jump three years later in Matthew's story to the time after Jesus's death and resurrection.

Jesus was no longer there to lead Matthew physically, but Matthew knew the importance of surrounding himself with community.

- This was a very hard time for Jesus's followers. Why do you think they were able to handle it better together?
- How do you think Matthew's story would have been different if he tried to get through this difficult time alone?

Read Mark 3:13–14. Jesus didn't do life alone, and we shouldn't either. The twelve disciples experienced life with Jesus which consisted of miracles, persecution, and eventually His death and resurrection.

- How does Jesus's example support our main idea that the people you spend the most time with will influence the direction of your life the most?
- How does knowing Jesus chose a group to surround Him change the way you feel about your Group?

Read Acts 2:42–47. There's no better example of doing life together than the start of the early Church. Changing your life happens when you are part of a Group that takes next steps together.

- What do these verses say about the power of life change and community impact when people take next steps together?
- How has being a part of this Group impacted your life?

Next Steps:

Help your Group identify what next steps you need to take together.

- You can't do life alone and you can't take next steps alone. Is there a next step that you need to share with your Group this week?
- Do you know someone who needs community? Encourage him or her to sign up for a Group this week! www.newspring.cc/nextsteps/groups
- Do you feel like your next step is leading a Group? Find out more information about how you can lead a Group at www.newspring.cc/groups

Pray

Thank Jesus for giving us the perfect example of how to live in community. Thank Him that we don't have to do life alone. Thank Jesus for the Group of people that you get to do life with. Ask for clarity on what next steps you should take as a Group.

Notes:

What's Next?

Thank you so much for joining and completing the Change Group study! Hopefully your life has been impacted by this Group over the past six weeks and you have seen the value of not doing life alone! There are three things coming up in NewSpring Groups that we want you to know about:

1. Spring Groups Celebration, coming in March 2014!

The Spring Groups Celebration will be an opportunity for you to have fun with your Group and all the other Groups at NewSpring. All of the Groups at your campus will come together for food, games and a few surprises! Expect information about this event from your campus soon.

2. Your next Group Study

We want your Group to keep meeting! In order to help you do so, we have provided a few online studies for your Group to choose from. Go to www.newspring.cc/groups/study to find all of our Group Study content. Here are a few of the studies available:

- Upgrade
- Job
- Grace
- Weird
- Adam & Eve (A Study for Men)
- Eve & Adam (A study for women)
- Chains
- Make War

3. Share your Group story

We know you have seen life change through the past six weeks in the Change study. We would love to hear your story! Share your story at www.newspring.cc/mystory

Thanks for being a part of NewSpring Groups!



NewSpring
CHURCH

www.newspring.cc