



all
things

First Episcopal District Bible Study Guide

new



The “All Things New” District Bible Study

Presented by Rev. Bernadette and Rev. Dr. Theodore Hickman-Maynard

First Episcopal District Planning Meeting

Friday, June 16, 2017

OVERVIEW

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21:5 (NRSV)

PURPOSE

To enable corporate and individual discernment of the 2017-2018 Conference Year Theme, “All Things New,” by providing a guide for scriptural study of the theme.

STUDY DESIGN

The study is divided into 12 units, one for each month of the year beginning July 2017 and ending June 2018. Each unit is designed to be taught as a 1-session study, leaving the remaining weeks of each month open for local pastors/instructors to return to their existing lesson plans or to extend their study of the “All Things New” theme throughout the entire month.

MONTHLY THEMES

2017

JULY: A New Spirit

AUGUST: A New Mind

SEPTEMBER: A New Way of Worship

OCTOBER: A New Creation (Person) in Christ

NOVEMBER: A New Way of Giving

DECEMBER: A New Birth

2018

JANUARY: A New Beginning

FEBRUARY: A New Way of Loving

MARCH: A New Level of Sacrifice

APRIL: A New Look at the Cross

MAY: A New Focus

JUNE: A New Church

UNIT STRUCTURE

Each unit explores the monthly theme by engaging two biblical texts: a key verse (or brief passage of several verses) that highlights the theme in a direct manner, and a longer passage that invites deeper questioning and reflection on the theme's implications for our lives, for the church, and for the world. The study guide is organized into the following 5 sections:

A NEW WORD

Each study begins with a short introduction of the theme that expresses the main idea of the key verse(s) and clarifies the ways in which that idea represents a “new word” from God.

A NEW UNDERSTANDING

The longer “study passage” is presented here, along with relevant background information on the author, cultural and biblical context, and basic message/purpose of the book overall. This section will also provide questions to aid readers in identifying the movement from “old” to “new” in the biblical text. In contrast to the clear connection between the key verse and the monthly theme, the relationship between the study passage and the theme may not be as obvious, thus inviting participants to probe for a fuller understanding of the theme.

A NEW LOOK

In this section, readers encounter a “case study” that focuses attention on our contemporary situation. The case study is intended to spark creative, practical thinking and may be drawn from life experience, current societal events, or literature (fiction or non-fiction).

A NEW CONVERSATION

Drawing on the case study, a series of questions guide participants into dialogue with one another in order to identify both the ways that the “old” is manifested in present day situations, as well as the opportunities and fresh insights about how the “new” might be pursued.

A NEW WALK

The study guide concludes with a call to personal reflection and a challenge to commit to practical steps that each individual can take to change the “old” and/or embrace the “new.”

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