



GROUP QUESTIONS FOR **AUGUST 9**

Series: Church Life

Renewing Our Minds

Icebreakers!

1. What's the most pointless thing people commonly still use? Why do they/we still do it?
2. How has America filled up with *amusements*? What do people do to amuse themselves today that they didn't have 10, 25, or 100 years ago?

Growing Together

3. **Study Ephesians 4:17-24 on the next page.** What warnings do you read? What instructions are there? How much is related to our minds and our way of thinking?
4. How does our culture promote turning off or shutting down our minds? Why is that?
5. What do people often do thoughtlessly?
6. What do people without Christ often pursue, even with *lots* of thought—that ends up being futile or empty in the end? What purposes do people create for their lives that really don't matter?
7. How does hardness of heart towards God lead to ignorance about Him, callousness towards spiritual things, and greed for things that are sensual and increasingly impure?
8. How did your hard heart get softened? How did you follow this progression: from a softened heart, to a desire for understanding, to learning Christ?
9. How did you not only learn about being saved by Jesus, but about how to live for Him? How do those two become different?
10. What habits are in your life so that you regularly put off your old self and put on your new identity in Christ? How do you maintain a constantly refreshing mindset in Christ?
11. **From the message this Sunday: What questions do you have? What encouraged you? What challenged you? Where did you see the Gospel?**

Head, Heart, and Hands

12. Where has your mind been stuck on empty and worthless things?
13. If your hard heart been keeping you from learning Christ, what corruption and deceitful desires getting in your way do you need to call out?
14. Where can you practice this process—put off, renew your mind, and put on—without skipping the middle step this week?

Ephesians 4:17-24

Now this I say
and testify in the Lord,

that **you must no longer walk
as the Gentiles do,
in the futility of their minds.**

They are
darkened in their understanding,

alienated from the life of God
because of the ignorance
that is in them,
due to their hardness of heart.

They **have become callous**

and **have given themselves up
to sensuality,**
greedy to practice
every kind of impurity.

**But that is not the way
you learned Christ!**

— assuming that
you have heard about him
and were taught in him,
as the truth is in Jesus,

to put off your old self,
which belongs
to your former manner of life
and is corrupt
through deceitful desires,

and to be renewed
in the spirit of your minds,

and to put on the new self,
created after the likeness of God
in true righteousness
and holiness.