



New Chapters

Hope in Coauthoring
Our Life Stories with God

Discussion Guide #3 New Chapters: In Location Pastor Fritz Wiese

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3.11

- THANKS EVERYONE for making time to be part of what God is doing in our "New Chapters" Lenten Series.
- Thank you, leader, for pulling this New Chapters "chapter" together.

Opening prayer: *Thanks God for gathering us together for these fun and holy 30 minutes. We're grateful that you promise to guide us in all chapters of our life stories. Send your Holy Spirit upon us in these moments, leading us to new life-giving perspectives and convictions about our stories with you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Discuss:

1. Warm up: Since this week's topic is new chapters in "location," let's briefly introduce ourselves again and share a meaningful location in our lives. And to make it fun, you can't say your home.
2. Beginning April 15, the sanctuary pews and carpet will be removed and the Sanctuary Renewal Process will begin. What have you heard about why people are excited about the renewal process? How do you think the renewal might be difficult as well for a few?
3. In his sermon, Pastor Fritz shared that changes location or space is on the "Top 10 List of Anxiety Triggers" for humans. Can you give an illustration of this? Why do you think locations can stir so much meaning and power in our lives?
4. As cited this past Sunday, the Bible in Numbers 14 describes the story of 12 spies scouting out the Promised Land as Joshua and the people decide if they should enter. 10 spies agree the land looks bountiful but advise the potential dangers are too risky. These 10 spies even suggest that they should consider returning to Egypt—even if it



means a return to slavery. Only 2 spies advise that they should proceed into the Promised Land, since God is on their side. How do you make sure that the “voices of pessimistic spies” don’t drown out the voices of hope in the Lord calling you move forward?

5. In her video testimony, after describing moves of complexity, Karen Schellnutt cites the hope she took in Deuteronomy 31.8, “It is the Lord who goes before you. God will be with you; God will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” Has this promise brought hope in your life as well?
6. Many vacations include a change in location. Why is a temporary change in location healthy?
7. There has been good humor with the fact that the sanctuary’s carpet is over 35 years old or so. What is the value of updating periodically our spaces? What is the value of leaving some dynamics of our spaces the same?
8. Who can give an illustration of how they feel about a place is clearly tied to a special event that happened there—whether happy or sad?
9. Why is it healthy that all humans, but especially COS folks in the midst of transition, reflect upon and talk about new chapters?

If you have time . . .

10. What’s one important perspective about new chapters in location that hasn’t been mentioned yet in your group?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thanks again for these holy moments with friends in Christ this session. Thanks for all the locations that you’ve used to help our stories with you unfold. Help us see the value in each. Inspire us to take care of the locations that mean so much to you and you plan to use for the benefit of your children. Be with us this week. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Thanks everyone!

See you next week!

Next week’s topic: New Chapters . . . in Agenda (with Jesus’ New Command)

