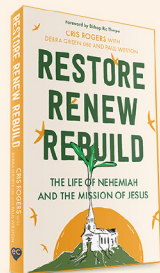


RESTORE RENEW REBUILD



Questions for discussion or reflection Session 1

If you're also reading Nehemiah alongside 'Restore, Renew, Rebuild', did you spot any examples or lessons in the first three books of Nehemiah that could apply to the restoration process ahead for the church and for ourselves?

Cris says that the most important part of his identity is as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Do we always prioritise becoming more like Jesus in our own lives or do we recognise the need for a restoration in our hearts?

Were there aspects of church that we were aware needed restoration pre-pandemic? What areas of brokenness in the church did we see revealed by the pandemic?

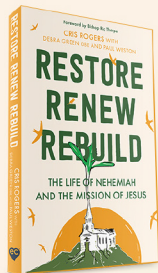
What does it mean to have our hearts restored back to God?

Can you identify places of alignment where your heart is broken by what breaks God's heart? How about places where you are out of alignment?

Cris lists a number of areas where the church has not shared God's focus and perspective, primarily: The environment, systemic racism, our care of the LGBTQ+ community. But also consumerism and individualistic attitudes, diversity in all its forms, care of those with disabilities and additional needs, sexual and spiritual abuse. Are there other issues that you feel the church needs to confess?

Cris reminds us that in James chapter five we are told that confession leads to healing - how might this look for ourselves and for the church in this process of restoration?

RESTORE RENEW REBUILD



Questions for discussion or reflection

Session 2

What breaks your heart? Are there things that cause you to sit and weep as Nehemiah and as Jesus did?

Can you share your views on and experiences of fasting? Has it been more about receiving answers to prayer or about a 'bodily listening prayer' that realigns our hearts to God?

Cris poses a series of questions around the issue of 'identificational repentance'. What's your view on this?

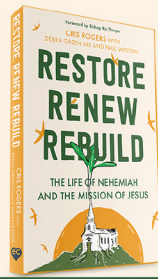
Do you agree that it is possible to identify as a people group and confess on behalf of that group?

Do you struggle with this idea? Why do you struggle with it? And how could you move through that?

Do you see that there might be potential for something new that could come from this practice?

Does everyone have to agree or is it possible for just a part of the people group to confess on behalf of the whole?

RESTORE RENEW REBUILD



Questions for discussion or reflection

Session 3

Do we identify with either being more of a 'yes' person, or a 'no' person?

Have we seen Sundays as the main event or just as a pit stop before heading back to the main event of the rest of our weeks?

What reflections do you have about the focus of your church in response to God's words in Amos 5 v 21-24?

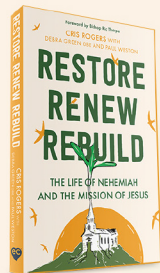
Does your church know it's vision?

If not, why not? What would it take to get to a place of knowing it?

If it does, what is helping you discern that vision? And does it need restoring? Renewing?

Do you know your 'big yes'? Have you written your own personal vision statement?

RESTORE RENEW REBUILD



Questions for discussion or reflection

Session 4

Do you feel God's given you a vision for where He's calling you and is that where you are at the moment? If not, how do you feel about the encouragement to just do what is right in front of you until God tells you to do something else?

Have you had any opportunities recently to build up credibility as a hard worker and truth speaker? Can you see opportunities you might take in the future?

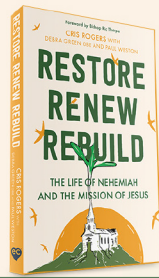
How could you take time both to get up close and see detail, and to stand back and see the big picture as you seek to discern vision and strategy? Are there friends and family who could help you in this process?

Is there anyone else you might come alongside to support as they seek to discern vision?

How might the church both look close and stand back in the process of casting a new vision?

If you haven't written your own personal vision statement yet, Cris encourages everyone to turn to page 94 of the book where he guides you through the process.

RESTORE RENEW REBUILD



Questions for discussion or reflection Session 5

Can you identify ways in which we've previously built church around our personalities, desires and needs, rather than with Jesus as the centrepiece?

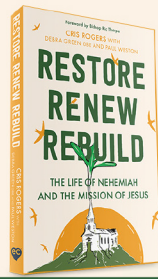
Cris lists his suggestions for what it would look like to rebuild the church in line with God's vision:

- Utterly dependent on Jesus and nothing else
- Must be immersed in, and attentive and obedient to the Word and the Spirit of God
- More diverse in congregations and leadership
- Smaller and more community centred
- Led by teams not by a single, dynamic leader
- More lay leadership
- Lower maintenance and higher impact
- Focused less on Sunday gatherings and more on equipping the saints for action
- Emotionally open and aware
- Real and authentic
- Daring and brave
- For those on the outside, not those on the inside

What would you add? What would you take away? What do you agree with? What do you disagree with?

What was your response when you heard Cris share about the 'Centres of Hope' in Iraq? What might a Centre of Hope look like in your community?

RESTORE RENEW REBUILD



Questions for discussion or reflection

Session 6

Can you think back to times when you've felt reluctant to 'put your neck on the line' for the mission of Jesus?

Have you experienced the process of God skilling you up when you stepped into a role you didn't feel qualified for?

Are there needs within your church community that God might be asking you to respond to, even though they don't fit with your natural gifting?

Cris mentions some ways we might be able to play our part within our own neighbourhoods (litter picking, caring for the flowers/trees/streets, emailing our MP about any issues, caring for our neighbours) - do any of these feel relevant for you and your community? What other ideas do you have for getting involved?

Do you feel ready to be filled again with the Holy Spirit and anointed to join in God's restoration work today?