



New Year: Redecorate | January 11, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

New Year's Resolutions are like redecorating. Most of us don't need a complete overhaul or makeover. We just need to move some stuff around, make some minor adjustments, and work with what we already have.

Key Verse

Matthew 12:43-45 (MSG)

When a defiling evil spirit is expelled from someone, it drifts along through the desert looking for an oasis, some unsuspecting soul it can bedevil. When it doesn't find anyone, it says, 'I'll go back to my old haunt.' On return it finds the person spotlessly clean, but vacant. It then runs out and rounds up seven other spirits more evil than itself and they all move in, whooping it up. That person ends up far worse off than if he'd never gotten cleaned up in the first place.

Discussion

Goals and resolutions should often look a lot more like redecorating than renovating. If we can spruce up a house with a few new items, switching out a paint color, or rearranging a room, why not do the same in our lives?

1. When is the last time you made a change to your home?
2. What is one simple change you could make at home to help it feel more comfortable, more up to date, or more like home?

We often don't accomplish everything we wish we could because we try to start over each year. We bite off more than we can chew and in the process we might undo some good we already have to work with.

3. What is one goal or resolution you have had in which you failed? Why do you think that is?
4. What is one goal or resolution you have had that has been a success? Why do you think that is?

The Bible suggests that we need not completely overhaul without a plan to replace it with something else. Interior decorators are great at 1. Rearranging things to make them work better, 2. Working with what you already have, and 3. Replace one thing with another for a major change.

5. What is one thing you could do, change or tweak in any of the 3 categories to redesign your life?

What's Next?

When we think about redecorating, we are often looking to make a house more of a home...more complete. As you move through the coming week and the year, find at least 1 thing from each category to continue to improve your life and make it more complete.