

## MESSY CHURCH...MERCIFUL GOD

(Renewed life...No leaven, & a no retreat faith)

**LEADERS - You will notice a new addition to the discussion questions... "KIDS" questions are now mixed in. Please use these to include the younger church family members in your life group discussions.**

**Also – be sure to wet your resurrection fern at the beginning of your meeting time...**

Was there something that spoke to you this week through the worship, preaching or teaching of God's word?

### **READ Psalm 85:6**

Have you or someone close to you recently experienced a time of testing or trial or suffering?

What does it feel like to be in a dry time...like living in a desert...in your walk with the Lord?

**KIDS** – When your parents or grandparents want to talk about God with you or read the Bible with you...Do you ever feel like it is really...really boring?

Pastor Jeff quoted another saying *"I know that a date on a calendar doesn't matter but for some reason, at the beginning of a New Year, it is easier for me to see the past year as behind me and to see a New Beginning."* Does this seem true for you? Please explain.

### **READ Isaiah 43:18-19**

What did you think when you heard that Iran (Muslim county) is one of the fastest growing areas in the world for the gospel of Christ?

Do tough times...even persecution...impact people for the gospel? How?

Have you ever felt like you need a resurrection?

Do you have spiritual goals set for 2020? What are they?

**KIDS** – Is there anything that you really want to do with God this year? What? Why?

What would it take for you to begin to **desire** to be closer to Jesus more than anything else?

Will you ask Jesus to draw you close to Him? When will you do this?

Describe what it looks like to truly confess any sin that we are aware of to Jesus?

Describe what it means to truly forsake any sin that we are aware of?

**KIDS** – If you make a really big mistake, what do you think God wants you to do?

Is it possible to set spiritual goals that could possibly **not** bring intimacy with Jesus?

What are examples of spiritual victories and spiritual defeats that we may experience after we set spiritual goals for 2020?

How can we celebrate spiritual victories with Jesus?

How can we lay spiritual defeats at His feet?

**READ 1 COR. 5:6-8**

What does leaven represent?

How can we live a life in 2020 without leaven?

What does it mean to “not return to Egypt” or to “burn the ships and don’t look back” in our relationship with God?

What do you want to experience in your relationship with the Lord in 2020?

Will you commit to placing all of your HOPE in the Lord for 2020?

- How can we pray for each other?
- How can we pray for our children?
- How can we pray for our church?