



New Wine

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SUNDAY 22 February 2026

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BECOMING NEW WINESKINS

22 February 2026

GETTING STARTED

In the Gospels, Jesus uses a simple but powerful image: **new wine must be poured into new wineskins**. This teaching appears in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, showing its importance. Jesus shares it when questioned about why His disciples do not fast like the Pharisees. His answer reveals that something radically new has arrived—**the gospel of grace**.

In ancient times, wineskins were made from animal hide. New wine expands as it ferments. Old wineskins, having become stiff and brittle, would burst under pressure. Jesus uses this picture to contrast **old religious systems** with the new life He brings.

The message is clear: the new life of the Kingdom cannot be contained within rigid, rule-based religion. To receive what Jesus offers, hearts must be **open, flexible, and surrendered**.

- What might “old wineskins” look like in your Christian life?
- Where in your life could you be expanded?

INTO THE WORD

Jesus contrasts four elements

- **New Wine** – the gospel of grace and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.
- **New Wineskins** – hearts that are humble, teachable, and open to God’s work.
- **Old Wine** – reliance on tradition, performance, and rule-based righteousness.
- **Old Wineskins** – hardened hearts resistant to change.

Jesus is not condemning the law but revealing its fulfillment. The Pharisees focused on outward religious practices, but Jesus came to transform hearts. The Kingdom He brings is not about external compliance but internal renewal.

Luke’s account adds a striking detail: “No one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better’” (Luke 5:39). This reveals a human tendency to cling to the familiar, even when God offers something better.

- Why do people often prefer the familiar “old wine” over God’s new work?
- What does it mean to have a soft, teachable heart before God?

GOING DEEPER

Jesus' teaching invites deep self-examination: **What is the condition of my heart?** A rigid heart resists God's movement, but a surrendered heart can carry His presence and purposes.

Becoming a new wineskin means allowing God to reshape us—our attitudes, traditions, expectations, and priorities. It means releasing control and trusting the Holy Spirit to form Christ within us.

The goal is not change for its own sake but transformation that preserves the wine and the wineskin—so that God's life in us remains vibrant and fruitful.

Key truth: God is always doing something new, but only surrendered hearts can carry it.

- What might God be asking you to release so you can receive His new work?
- How can you cultivate a spirit that is open and responsive to the Holy Spirit?
- What would it look like for you to carry the “new wine” in this season?

Pray