

# DISCUSSION GUIDE



November 3/6, 2016

**BIG IDEA:** We are called to release the kingdom within us into the world around us.

## GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take next steps together. A next step is any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

## KEY VERSE

**Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.**

**Hebrews 13:17**

## POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Pray for our country to prosper. No matter the outcome of this week's elections, trust in God's heavenly system. Pray for opportunities to release His kingdom into the broken world around us.

## MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Like Daniel, we are called to live a godly life in an ungodly world in these five ways:

1. We submit without surrendering. (**Daniel 1:19; Romans 13:1-2, 6-7**) To rebel against authority is to rebel against God Himself. God wants us to submit to a man we can see, to teach us how to submit to a God we cannot see. Big people submit to small leaders, but we do not surrender our values or let them lead us into sin. (**Proverbs 21:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Psalm 75:7; John 19:11; Acts 4:18-20; Matthew 5:10; 1 Samuel 15:23 NKJV**)
2. We honor without misplacing our hope. (**Daniel 4:19**) We honor authority – not because they deserve it, but because we are honorable people. Honor is the culture of the kingdom. (**Romans 12:10; Hebrews 13:17; Psalm 121:1-2; Psalm 20:7**) Our hope is not in a candidate; it's in a King, and His name is Jesus. (**Daniel 3:15-18, 25; Luke 17:21; Matthew 6:10**)
3. We contribute without criticizing. (**Genesis 12:2; Jeremiah 29:4-7, 10-11**) We are God's grace to this world, and grace opens the door of the heart to receive the truth that will set us free. Usually the people who criticize the most contribute the least, so maybe we should be more focused on contributing than criticizing. (**Romans 2:4; Matthew 5:45; 1 Peter 2:11-12; Ephesians 4:29**)
4. We influence without being influenced. (**Daniel 4:1-3; Daniel 6:25-27**) Like Jesus, we are sent to seek and save the lost. No matter how dark it may be, we are still the Church, and we can still do what we were called to do – heal the sick, rescue the lost, bring hope, and show love. (**Matthew 5:14; Luke 13:20-21; 2 Peter 3:9**)
5. We pray without panicking. Before we worry about what is happening around us, we should remember what has happened within us. We all want God to heal our nation, but our contribution is to humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways. (**2 Chronicles 7:14**)

## DISCUSSION

1. Share a time when you submitted to an earthly authority, but did not surrender your godly values. (**See point #1**)
  2. Are you a joy to lead (in your workplace, school, family, church, government, etc.)? Why or why not? How will you change this? (**See points #2-4**)
  3. In which areas of your life will you panic less and pray more? (**See point #5**)
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**
  - **What is your next step?**

Do you have a story of someone taking a next step?  
Share with us at [groups@valleycreek.org](mailto:groups@valleycreek.org)