



DISCUSSION GUIDE

January 11/14, 2018

Engage the Scriptures

BIG IDEA: Engaging the Scriptures is the beginning of a rooted life.

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 where we Ask, Listen, and Respond to take any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

My Story.

An encounter with Jesus leaves a story to tell. Share yours at valleycreek.org/MyStory.

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KEY VERSE

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Continue, or start, reading the Bible plan we are reading as a Valley Creek Church family. Join us for the Rooted Experiences on Monday mornings at all campuses.

You can find the **Reading Plan** and more info about the **Rooted Experiences** at <http://valleycreek.org/rootedi/jesus/>

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Engaging the Scriptures is the anchor of a rooted life. When we engage the scriptures, we will be rooted and flourish in life. **(Psalm 1:1-3)** The Word of God is the owner's manual to being human, it teaches us how He intended us to live, and Jesus is the Word made flesh. **(John 1:14)** Jesus came to show us what it means to be fully human and fully alive. The Bible is not a book of do's and don'ts, it is a book of scriptures that live and move in our lives today, not to make us religious or full of fear and striving. Repenting, or changing the way we think, about how we engage the Bible will lead us to a rooted life; strengthened and overflowing with thankfulness. **(Colossians 2:6-7)**

Here are a few ways we can engage the Scriptures in a life-giving way.

1. **Engage the Scriptures from a Jesus-focused perspective.** If Jesus is the word of God, we have to let Him teach us how to read the Word of God. **(Luke 24:24-25)** The Old Testament is Jesus concealed and the New Testament is Jesus revealed. It is a story of who Jesus is and what He has done, not about what we have to do. **(John 5:39-40)** Engaging the Scriptures with a Jesus perspective makes us feel alive because it tells us who we are. **(Luke 24:31-33)** The more clearly we see Jesus, the more clearly we will see our life: He is a declaration of our identity and an explanation of our inheritance. The Scriptures tell us that we get to live up to the reality of being righteous in the Kingdom of God. **(Ephesians 4:1, 2 Timothy 3:16)** We are blessed by God because we believe in the finished work of Jesus fulfilling the law for us. **(Joshua 1:8, Galatians 3:5, Matthew 5:17, John 6:48-51)**
2. **Ask the Holy Spirit: What is this teaching me about who I am, who He is and what I am created to do?** It is important we discover for ourselves by reading for ourselves. We don't work on the Scriptures; the Scriptures work on us. The Bible is active and living, a Scripture you read today will have fresh revelation next week, next month and five years from now. **(John 5:39-40, Hebrews 4:12)** When you discover what Jesus has done, it changes what you do and how you live. **(Romans 12:2)**
3. **Ask God to give you a desire to engage the Scriptures.** **(Matthew 26:4)** Each day, pray "Jesus, give my heart a desire to seek you." The world places thorns in life that choke out the seed that starts to grow in our hearts. The beginning of a rooted life, starts with the Word of God. We need to intentionally create space to let the living Word of God take root and grow in our hearts. **(Mark 4:18-19, 2 Timothy 3:16)**

DISCUSSION

1. Engaging the Scriptures means to meditate on them, not just read them. What emotion do you feel when you think about engaging the Scriptures and why? **(See point #1)**
2. The Scriptures are living and they change us each time we engage them. Tell about a time when you read the same Scripture in different seasons and it gave you a fresh revelation. **(See point #2)**
3. As a group, take time to pray, "Jesus, give my heart a desire to seek you." How can you support each other in seeking Jesus this week?
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step?**