



DISCUSSION GUIDE

May 17/20, 2018

Disappointed with Feeling Forgotten

BIG IDEA: When you feel forgotten, remember the Lord is doing a deep work inside of you.

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

"I have told you these things, so that in me you might have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
John 16:33

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

A great way to focus on the goodness of God and find hope in your current season is to engage the Scriptures. As a church family, we are reading a chapter of the Bible a day to learn who we are, who God is and what we're created to do. You can find the reading plan at valleycreek.org/rootedinjesus

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Hope is the confident expectation of the goodness of God today, even though we feel forgotten. Sometimes, we feel like we are doing everything right but our circumstances don't change. (**Genesis 40:23**) If we are going to get from where we are to where God is leading us, we need to learn how to deal with the disappointment of feeling forgotten. (**Genesis 40:14-15**) Disappointment is normal, but because of what Jesus has done, we don't have to live with a spirit of disappointment. (**John 16:33**) We can live with a spirit of hope!

Here are some ways to hold onto hope when we feel forgotten.

1. **Don't give up. (Galatians 6:9)** When we don't see a change in our circumstances we tend to want to give up. But God invites us to lean in and trust Him. (**Genesis 41:9-16**) Don't stop believing in the goodness of God. (**Romans 12:12TPT, Genesis 41:38-42**) **We can** continue to take next steps knowing God hasn't forgotten us. (**Isaiah 44:21, 49:15NLT, Genesis 16:13, Philippians 1:6**)
2. **The process is more important than the outcome.** Disappointment is part of a process to expose, reveal, and heal broken areas of our hearts. (**Psalms 105:17-20TPT**) We don't need to rush what God is doing because we will need it for the days ahead. The process is meant to strengthen us so we can steward the outcome of the coming breakthrough. (**Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4, Luke 22:31-32**) God wants to do big things in us before He does big things through us. (**John 15:1-2**)
3. **Embrace the seasons of hiddenness.** Seasons of hiddenness are invitations to discover who we really are. During seasons of hiddenness our identity is declared and tested. God has great purposes for us but sometimes He hides us from the world so we can grow stronger in our identity as beloved sons and daughters. Lean into the season and trust God. (**1 Peter 5:6, Jeremiah 29:11**)
4. **Serve the people God has placed around you.** Destiny is our journey with God and serving is not only the pathway to our destiny, it is our destiny. (**1 Corinthians 10:24**) Disappointment steals servanthood. Serving keeps us humble and it keeps hope alive because serving is hope in action. (**Mark 9:35TPT**) By serving those around us with our gifts, we are setting ourselves up for a promotion from God.

DISCUSSION

1. God's process creates character and fosters hope. Where are you more focused on the outcome when God is asking you to be hopeful in the process? (See point #2)
2. God's timing is a gift to you. What are some ways you can embrace the seasons of hiddenness? (See point #3)
3. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
4. What is your next step?