



DISCUSSION GUIDE

August 9/12, 2018

Rooted in Forgiveness

BIG IDEA: Forgiveness frees us to flourish in 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.

Colossian 2:6-7

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Jesus gave everything, so we could receive everything. We are invited to rest in, receive from, and trust in Him. Spend some time thanking Him for his unwavering kindness and overwhelming love for you.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

God wants us to flourish in life. **(John 10:10)** We are invited to rest in, receive from, and trust in Jesus. We can't rush what God is doing, but we're going to need what He's doing for the big life He has for us. Our roots are growing! **(Ephesians 3:17-19)** The beginning of a flourishing life is to receive the forgiveness that Jesus offers. Although we have all missed the mark and fallen short of the glory of God, we were made to live in the glory of God. **(John 8, Romans 3:23)** There are four ways we are condemned in our failures: 1) the law **(2 Corinthians 3)**, 2) Satan **(Isaiah 54:17, Revelation 12:10)**, 3) judgmental people, and 4) ourselves. Condemnation means being accused, found guilty, and worthy of punishment. Jesus fulfilled the law, defeated Satan, silenced our accusers, and calms our minds. **(Romans 8:1, John 3:17)** Forgiveness is a choice God has already made, receiving His forgiveness is now the choice we get to make.

1. **In Jesus we are completely forgiven and fully free.** **(Psalm 103:2-3)** We tend to forget that all our past and future sins are already forgiven. The sins we can't seem to forget are the ones He can't remember. **(Hebrews 8:12)** Jesus was condemned so we could be forgiven. **(Romans 4:7-8)**
2. **Our past no longer defines us.** We are no longer defined by what we have done but what Jesus has done. **(Isaiah 1:18)** We are not our bad or good, we are Jesus' best. **(Romans 6:8)** In Jesus, we are children of God, made in His image and likeness, who are loved, forgiven, and set free. Forgiveness isn't just what we receive, forgiven is who we are. **(2 Corinthians 5:17)** The moment we put our faith in Jesus we have a flow of forgiveness at all times. **(1 John 1:7)**
3. **Forgiveness changes how we live.** **(John 8:11)** Jesus is grace and truth. It's the kindness of Jesus to forgive all our sin that leads us to confess or admit our sin. We confess so we don't live in condemnation. Then we become so moved by His goodness that we get uprooted from the soil of condemnation and get rooted deeply and richly in the soil of forgiveness and we flourish in life. **(Titus 2:12)** The secret behind a person who is flourishing in life is believing they are fully forgiven. **(2 Peter 1:5-9)**

DISCUSSION

1. Being rooted in condemnation effects our health. Which of the 4 forms of condemnation do you take on? Declare, out loud, that Jesus fulfilled the law, defeated Satan, silenced our accusers, and calms our minds. **(See summary)**
2. Jesus's forgiveness is one of the wonders of the universe. What are some things in your past you are holding onto when Jesus promises He doesn't see them? **(See point #2)**
3. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step?