



DISCUSSION GUIDE




August 16/19, 2018

Rooted in Righteousness

BIG IDEA: Righteousness empowers 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 any belief or behavior that moves us forward on 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 am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5**

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

This week, start each morning by declaring, "I am right with God." Write it down in your journal, say it out loud, and remind yourself of this truth over your life.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

God wants you to flourish in life. He wants you to have a full, abundant, overflowing life in every way. To live a flourishing life, we must believe we are forgiven and righteous in Jesus. Righteousness means in right standing. We can experience that life when we get rooted in Jesus. As we learn to receive His life and all that He offers by allowing Him to be the source of our life, we naturally start to flourish in life. **(John 15:5)** As we look at the different soils that we build our lives upon in Jesus, we realize that the deeper we go, the more fruitful we become. The soil of righteousness reminds us that:

1. **In Jesus, we are right with God.** When we received Jesus, His righteousness became the influencing agent in our lives and He declared us clean. **(2 Corinthians 5:21)** We aren't just forgiven, we have been made righteous because all our sin was placed on Jesus. Our relationship with God was made right by believing in Jesus through faith. **(Romans 3:22, John 6:29, Galatians 2:16)** Because of Jesus, we are always in right standing with God because everything that is true of Jesus is true of us. **(Jeremiah 23:6, Colossians 3:3, 1 John 4:17)** Until we believe we are rooted in righteousness, we will never fully flourish in life. **(2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 14:17)**
2. **Not only are we forgiven, we have been fully restored.** Just like the man with leprosy, we are fully restored. Jesus doesn't just cancel our debt, He credits our account. God never brings us back to neutral, He gives us more. We have more in Jesus than we ever lost in Adam. **(Romans 5:17)** A lot of us believe we are forgiven but don't believe we are righteous. We spend our lives trying to become what we already are. **(Romans 5:19,)** We are defined by what Jesus did instead of what we do. When we acknowledge we need Jesus and believe we are righteous, we will start to live righteously because it changes us from the inside out. **(1 John 1:9, 1 Corinthians 15:34)** Believe who God says you are: beloved, free and forgiven, victorious, overcomer, empowered and alive!
3. **Righteousness changes how we live.** When we seek Jesus and His kingdom first, our eyes are opened to a new way of living. **(Matthew 6:33)** A lot of us receive the forgiveness of Jesus, but nothing really changes; we go right back to how we were living. We get stuck in between forgiveness and righteousness and continue to live by performance. We get saved by grace, but then want to live by performance. God doesn't work that way. We are saved by grace, stand by grace, walk by grace, and live by grace, there is no other way. **(Hebrews 4:16, James 5:16, Proverbs 24:16)** By getting rooted in righteousness we start to believe that God is with us wherever we go, in whatever we do, at all times and in every way; this changes how we live.

DISCUSSION

1. Take a moment and describe yourself to the group. Does your description match what Jesus says about you? (See point #1)
2. Do you believe there is nothing you can do to lose your identity as righteous? That you never have to question your relationship with God? Why or why not? (See point #2)
3. Describe how your life has changed by receiving Jesus and allowing Him to make you clean in all areas of your life? (See point #3)
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step?**