

DATE: August 18, 2019 **SERIES**: The Ascent **TITLE**: Week 1

BIG IDEA: Going to New Places with God

SUMMARY

We are made to live an ascending life. To take simple next steps that move us to new heights and places with God. New places with God will take us to new places in every area of our lives. Often, we get stuck, lost, and confused on our journey. But if we ask God, He will give us the wisdom to move forward and pioneer new ground in our relationship with Him. There are many examples in Scripture of God calling individuals up a mountain to meet with Him; a prophetic picture of going on a spiritual journey to a new place with God.

KEY POINTS:

1. The ascending life starts with discovering Jesus.

- "The foundation of life starts with the Grace of God."
- "The ascending life isn't about what you have to do, it's about what Jesus has already done."
- "Jesus is the foundation of the mountain of life. When we walk with Him, our lives become ever- widening, increasing, and ascending."
- "Jesus is inviting us down from the mountain we're climbing to go up the mountain with Him." *In your life, what "false summit" mountains are you climbing?*

2. The more of Jesus we discover, the more of Jesus we desire.

- "Every time we discover more of Jesus, we go to a new place in our relationship with God."
- "When grace comes into your life, suddenly you don't want to climb the mountains of this world."
- "The question is, 'Are you discovering Jesus?' not 'Have you discovered Jesus?'"
- "We are familiar with the name of Jesus, but unfamiliar with the person of Jesus."

When was the last time you had a fresh discovery of the love and kindness of Jesus?

3. Discovering Jesus starts with humility.

- "Jesus came to serve us with His grace, goodness, and forgiveness."
- "We are drawn by grace and changed by grace."
- "Often we want to conform Jesus into our image rather than be conformed into His image."

Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" What is your answer to His question?

SIMPLE STEPS TO BEGIN DISCOVERING JESUS:

- 1. The first step in discovering Jesus is to receive His salvation and be baptized. Our next baptisms will be on September 5 & 8. Visit valleycreek.org/baptism for more information about classes.
- 2. Attend First Step to begin to discover how Jesus is building His church. The next session of First Step starts on September 15. Register at valleycreek.org/firststep.
- 3. Attend the Freedom Gathering to learn to live free in Jesus. Register at valleycreek.org/freedom.

Scripture References (Psalm 27:8, Matthew 4:19, Psalm 25:4, Mark 10:21, John 14:6, Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 16:15, Mark 10:45, John 4:10, John 16:12-13, Romans 10:17, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Acts 4:12, Matthew 16:18, John 8:32)