

DISCUSS & ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES

<u>Click here for a link</u> to all Scripture references from the message.

John the Baptist modeled what it looks like to overcome ourselves. Even before he was born, his life was marked by the vision of becoming less so that Jesus could become more (John 3:30). Overcoming ourselves just means having a higher value for what God is doing than our own preferences, emotions, or expectations. Take a moment to pause and reflect on where you let these things take priority in your life to help you answer the questions below.

- 1. Read Philippians 4:6-7. We can't take responsibility for our actions until we take authority over our emotions. Based on your reflection, what emotions do you need to take authority over? How can you let the peace of God guard your heart and mind?
- 2. Read Romans 8:5. When our minds are set on the flesh instead of the spirit, we have a tendency to "over-do" instead of believing we've already overcome. What is your mind set on? If it's set on the flesh, how is God inviting you to set it on the spirit?
- 3. Read Acts 20:35. Where do you need to step outside of yourself and give something (time, preferences, resources)?
- 4. Read Luke 7:28. John the Baptist was an overcomer, and Jesus says that we are even greater than him through grace. What does your behavior say about your belief in yourself as an overcomer?

PRAY

Pray Romans 8:38-39 over yourself and our church.

PRACTICE PLAN

If you're engaging in a practice plan, share with your circle how you've experienced God through it as we wrap up the summer semester. Access resources for each practice at valleycreek.org/adifferentway.

MISSIONAL MOVE: CREATE THE FUTURE

For resources and a digital commitment card, visit valleycreek.org/missionalmove.