

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

ValleyCreek

# EASTER 2017

April 13-16, 2017

Easter


**BIG IDEA:** You don't have to look for hope because hope is looking for 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.

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## KEY VERSE

**But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

**Romans 5:8**

## POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Maybe your next step is to receive and reflect. To receive the free gift of an abundant life and hope that Jesus offers, and to reflect with thankfulness that "it is finished". It's receiving that refills and thankfulness that renews our hearts.

Do you have a story of someone taking a next step?  
Share with us at  
[groups@valleycreek.org](mailto:groups@valleycreek.org)

## MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

- Easter is all about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and so we celebrate who He is and what He did!** We are familiar with the story but sometimes forget its significance. The great danger of familiarity is that familiarity can begin to numb our awe and our wonder. Familiarity can lead us to take the miraculous act of Jesus' grace for granted. **(2 Corinthians 11:3)**
- While there is complexity in this world, we find that there is immense depth in the simplicity of Jesus. Every detail holds great significance for us:
  - Jesus was whipped – by His stripes we are healed of our sickness and disease.
  - Jesus was stripped of His robe and a scarlet robe was placed on Him – He took the deep shame and stains of our lives upon Himself so that we can have His robe of righteousness.
  - Jesus wore a crown of thorns – He became the curse of striving and struggling by the sweat of our brow so that we might receive His rest.
  - Jesus was nailed to a cross – He paid for what we have done.
  - Jesus was speared through the heart – the hard spear went through His soft heart so our hard hearts could be made soft.
  - Jesus became thirsty so we could be satisfied
  - Jesus was forsaken by God so we will never have to be.
- When Jesus' life ended, our striving, our performance, our attempts to measure up ended. **It is finished! (1 John 3:16; Romans 5:8)**
- While we are familiar with the symbolism of the cross, we have become unfamiliar with the significance of the empty tomb. **(1 Corinthians 15:17-19)** Jesus didn't just die for us but, rather, He died as us. **(2 Corinthians 5:21)** The law judged Jesus on our behalf and He died in our place. But, the tomb could not contain Him because mercy triumphs over judgment and grace is superior to the law. **(Hebrews 8:12; 1 John 1:9; Colossians 2:13-15)** The stone of Jesus' tomb was rolled away because our sins are no longer covered, they are now cleansed once and for all. **(Romans 10:4)**. We must stop looking for life in religion/the law. **(Luke 24:5-6)** Our hope is found in Jesus. **(John 1:17; Hebrews 4:16)** Hope isn't a feeling, He is a person; His name is Jesus and He is looking for us. **(Romans 5:5; Luke 19:10; John 15:16)**
- We are all looking for life, but sometimes we can look in all the wrong places. Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. **(John 14:6)** We are often overwhelmed by the storm in our lives. But Jesus walks on the storms and He is inviting us to look at Him; the Author and Perfecter of our faith. **(Matthew 14:30-33)**

## DISCUSSION

- What are some areas in your life where you still have wonder and awe? Where has your wonder and awe been quenched? (See point #1)
- Pick one of the above examples from point #2 and talk about its significance in your life. (See point # 2)
- How does Jesus dying "as you" hold great significance for you? (See point #4)
- Where are some areas that you may be looking in the wrong places for life? How is Jesus calling you to look at Him and away from those things? (See point #5)
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step?**