



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

November 9/12, 2017

SEVEN: Family On Mission

**BIG IDEA: We are a family on mission together.**

## 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](http://valleycreek.org/MyStory).

**FOLLOW US**    @vccfamily  
Find resources at [valleycreek.org/vccsocial](http://valleycreek.org/vccsocial)

## KEY VERSE

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Ephesians 1:5 NLT

## POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

In family we find safety, value and love expressed. Find time this week to express love to a member(s) of your earthly family. Now, choose to express love and gratitude to someone in our VCC family. (Galatians 6:10)

## MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Valley Creek is a family on mission together. We are devoted to each other and to the cause of Christ. We are NOT individuals looking for consumption. (Ephesians 1:3-8) Salvation is about the forgiveness of sin and the adoption into a family. The family we're adopted into is the Church.

1. **God is building a family.** The entire Bible is the story about a loving Father, building a family. Out of all the names for God, He wants to be known primarily as Father. He wants to be known for who He is, not what He can do for us. (2 Corinthians 6:18) God is building Valley Creek into a family, and the more we see God as Father, the more we'll start to believe we're family. (Ephesians 3:14-15) Jesus is the image of God the Father, not our earthly fathers. (John 14:9, Galatians 6:10) We honor the Father by engaging with the family that cost Him everything to build.
2. **It's only in family where we reach our potential.** The early church lived as a family on mission together; they were ordinary people who were released to do extraordinary things. (Acts 2:46-47) We help each other mature, stay healthy and reach our potential. Within the context of family, we thrive not just survive. (Hebrews 10:24-25) We need others in the church and the church needs us. (Ephesians 4:16) In family we find safety, value and love expressed.  
To be a part of a family we need:
  - a) Someone to know – know a lot about a few people.
  - b) Something to do – contributing and finding purpose.
  - c) Someone to become – look up to and be inspired by someone.
3. **The world is longing for a healthy family.** Everyone wants to belong, be accepted and be loved. God wants to be a Father to the fatherless and set the lonely in families. (Psalm 68:6) God unites and heals within families and this is refreshing to the world around us.

## DISCUSSION

1. Is the concept of church as a family on mission new to you? How have you viewed 'church' in the past? (See summary.)
2. How has your church family encouraged you to mature (encouragement, prayer, inspiration, support, or perhaps offenses)? (See point #2)
3. How do people around you view church in general? How can you help them see that the church is where we belong, are accepted and loved? (See point #3)
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**
5. **What is your next step?**