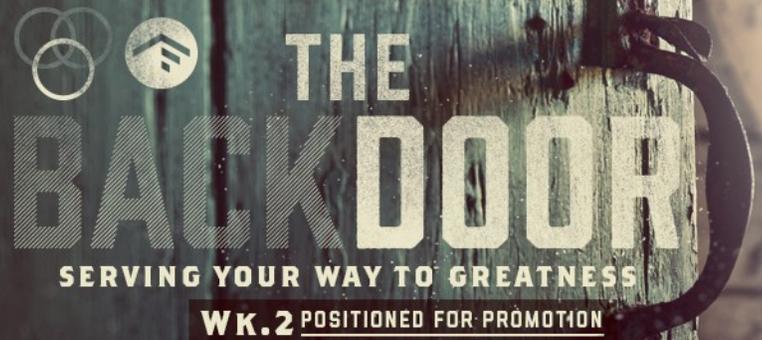


DISCUSSION GUIDE



October 6/9, 2016

BIG IDEA: Serving positions you for promotion.

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 action that advances our journey with Jesus.

KEY VERSE

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Mark 9:35

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

1. Greatness isn't found through the front door of performance; it's found through the backdoor of servanthood. If we want to get promoted to the front of the line, we must go serve at the back of the line. **(Mark 9:33-35; 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-13)**
2. Serving positions us for promotion – We have been taught to look good, get attention, point to our success, use others to get ahead, take credit for the good, blame others for the bad, etc. But that is the way of the world. God doesn't pick the greatest talent; He picks the greatest servant. **(1 Samuel 16:7)** David positioned himself for promotion not by jockeying for position, but by serving in the pasture. In the same way, God is our promoter. **(Psalm 75:7; 2 Chronicles 16:9)** The fastest way to get promoted is to serve those in authority over us. **(Hebrews 13:17; Colossians 3:23; Isaiah 6:8)**
3. Serving purifies our hearts – Before we get promoted, we have a choice while serving: to be resentful or refined. Seasons of serving others will do things inside of us that seasons of being served never will. **(1 Samuel 9:2)** Servants outlast superstars. God won't promote our hands beyond the purity of our hearts. Serving others is never wasted time in the kingdom of God. **(Proverbs 20:21; Psalm 16:5-6)**
4. Serving prepares us to lead – Serving in the pasture prepares us to lead in the palace. **(Psalm 78:70-72)** Good leaders are great servants. If we are unwilling to serve one in private, we are not ready to serve many in public. Because we are all made in the image and likeness of God, we are all called to be servant leaders. **(Genesis 1:28; John 20:21; Luke 19:13, 15-21)**

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

David was not invited to the coronation party, but the Lord found him in the pasture and told Samuel he (David) is the one. Are you in a position where you are currently feeling overlooked? Remember that God is your Promoter. This week memorize Psalm 75:7 – *"But it is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another."*

DISCUSSION

1. Share a time where you felt pressured by the world to promote yourself. What did you learn from that experience? (See point #1)
 2. If servanthood was the only determining factor for promotion, would you promote yourself? Are you a joy to lead? Why, or why not? (See point #2)
 3. What is an area in your life where you are being asked by God to serve others? (See point #3)
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**
 - **What is your next step?**

Do you have a story of someone taking a next step?
Share with us at groups@valleycreek.org