

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK FIVE
"FAMILY ON MISSION"

UPSIDE DOWN CHURCH

September 19, 2015

BIG IDEA: We are a family on mission together.

GROUPS VISION

We desire everyone at Valley Creek Church to be in a small group. Groups are where we take Next Steps together on our journey with Jesus and where Group Leaders develop their Next Leaders to carry the vision to others.

KEY VERSE

God sets the lonely in families.

Psalm 68:6

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Find an opportunity to reset someone's view of the American church this week. Maybe your Valley Creek logo t-shirt in public can start a conversation about how your entire church *family* has one of these shirts. They may be surprised to hear you use the word *family* when describing a church!

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

1. Valley Creek is a family on mission – devoted to each other and to the cause of Jesus Christ. We are NOT individuals looking for consumption. **(Ephesians 1:3-8)**
2. **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 a Father – known for who He is, not what He does. **(2 Corinthians 6:18)** God is also building Valley Creek into a family. The more we see God as Father, the more we'll start to believe we are a family. **(Ephesians 3:14-15)** Your earthly father is not the image of God the Father; Jesus is. **(John 14:9)**
3. **It is only in family where we reach our potential.** The early church lived on mission. They were ordinary people who were released to do extraordinary things. **(Acts 2:46-47)** We help each other reach our potential – maturing and staying healthy. **(Hebrews 10:24-25)** We need others in the church, and the church needs us. **(Ephesians 4:16)** To be part of a family, we need:
 - a. **Someone to know** – knowing a lot about a few people
 - b. **Something to do** – contributing and finding purpose
 - c. **Someone to become** – someone to look up to and be inspired by
4. **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 can unite people with different backgrounds into healing that is refreshing to the world around us.

DISCUSSION

1. Is the concept of church as a family new to you? How have you viewed "church" in the past? (See points #1-2.)
 2. How has your church family helped you mature (encouragement, prayer, inspiration, support, and even offenses)? (See point #3.)
 3. How do people in the world around you view the church in general? How can you help them see that ours is a church where people belong, are accepted, and loved? (See point #4.)
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**
 - **What is your Next Step?**

Do you have a story of someone taking a Next Step or a Leader developing a Next Leader?
Share with us at groups@valleycreek.org