

DISCUSSION GUIDE

March 9/12, 2017

BIG IDEA: How God sees you and how God sees others.

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.

KEY VERSE

**So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

When we see others the way God does, we no longer look down on them, we look up for them. This week, as you encounter others throughout each day, ask God to show you how He sees them.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

- 1. We should not build our beliefs from how we perceive things, but rather perceive things from the foundation of our beliefs.**
 - a) The term "perception is reality" is a saying that is often used. It means we let our experiences shape and mold how we see things – often creating unhealthy, inaccurate beliefs.
 - b) When talking about changing our perception, we have to start with ourselves. If we don't see ourselves the way God sees us, then we will never see others the way God sees them.
 - c) God does not see us the way the world sees us. His reality is based on the finished work of Jesus in our lives. **(1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 12)** Paul began to see himself in that reality and it changed everything. When we see ourselves as God sees us, we believe it. Our self-perception changes. **(2 Corinthians 5:16-17)**
- 2. God doesn't see a mess, He sees Jesus. He doesn't see it someday, He sees it now.**
 - a) We don't have to wait for anything or do anything to know how God sees us, because when He looks at us He sees Jesus now! **(1 John 4:17)**
 - b) Our reality will begin to change as we begin to see as God sees. **(Psalm 139:1-4, 13-14)**
- 3. When we see others the way God does, we no longer look down on them, we look up for them. When we see others the way God does, we no longer see what they've done, we see what Jesus has done for them.**
 - a) How we perceive ourselves will determine how we perceive others. And how we perceive others will determine how we respond to them. **(Luke 19:1-7, Luke 7:44)**

DISCUSSION

1. If "perception is reality" what are some ways you might be building your beliefs from how you perceive things? (See point #1)
 2. Describe an area where you struggle to see yourself as God sees you. (See points #1 & 2)
 3. Where is God inviting you to change your perspective of 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