

# DISCUSSION GUIDE



April 18/19, 2015

**BIG IDEA:** When we love others the invisible God is made visible.

## 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

**No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.**

**1 John 4:12**

## MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

1. Those who know God best will love people most. Spiritual maturity is not measured by how much we know, it's measured by how much we love. If God is love, then all revelation from God will lead us to love others more. This is how God's love is made complete. When we love other people, the invisible God is made visible. **(1 John 4:7-12)**
2. Just like "Show and Tell" in elementary school, the "tell" doesn't have much effect without the "show". Many Christians live with a lot of "tell" but not much "show". It's our willingness to show God's love to others that gives us the authority to tell them about it. **(1 Corinthians 4:20; 1 John 3:18; 1 Peter 2:11-12; John 4:48)**
3. Motive is everything when it comes to good deeds. A lot of us do good deeds for ourselves. Love on display is always about what the world needs, not what we want to give. **(1 Corinthians 10:24)**
4. Our life stories are rescue letters, written by Jesus, to the world around us. Jesus continues writing the stories of our lives with each next step we take with Him. When we take the pen, we write death, destruction, and despair. When we give Jesus the pen, He writes hope, restoration, and freedom. It is like mail fraud to not deliver His rescue letters to the people in the world He addressed them to. **(2 Corinthians 3:2-3)**
5. Community is forged and thrives in mission. If there is no mission, all community will unravel and die (small groups, churches, and even marriages). We are Jesus's outreach strategy. He chose us to put His love on display.

## POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Pray about a missional idea to suggest for your small group to do as a group. Come up with a service opportunity that meets a felt need in the community and puts the unexpected love of Jesus on display.

## DISCUSSION

1. How are you displaying the love of Jesus in your neighborhood, workplace, etc?
  2. What does your letter look like? Can you clearly tell which parts of the story you wrote and which parts Jesus wrote?
  3. How do you plan to "show" so you might later have the authority to "tell"?
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**
  - **What is your Next Step?**
  - **If you are a follower of Jesus but have not yet followed Him into the waters of baptism, then that is your Next Step. Will you take that step with Him?**

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](mailto:groups@valleycreek.org)