



DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 19/22, 2018

Disappointed with Circumstances

BIG IDEA: If you don't learn how to deal with disappointing circumstances you will never step into the fullness of your destiny.

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.
FOLLOW US @vccfamily
 Find resources at valleycreek.org/vccsocial

KEY VERSE

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

What promise of God are you holding close?

Write your promise down, and think about it as you go throughout the week. Try to memorize your promise and watch how your heart fills with hope.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Hope isn't anchored in the things of this world but in the character of God, that's why hope never fails. (**Proverbs 13:12**) Heavenly hope and earthly disappointment can't coexist. (**Romans 5:5**) Disappointment is meant to be a temporary emotion not a permanent perspective. Joseph's life is a great example of how to deal with disappointment. He refused to allow the things which happened to him determine the hope within him. (**Genesis 39:1, Genesis 39:20**) There are seasons where the disappointment in circumstances tries to create chaos within us. Here's a few ways to deal with disappointment in circumstances so we don't lose our hope and we are able to move from where we currently are to where God is leading us:

1. **Remember God is with us.** We make judgments about the closeness of God based on the circumstances of our lives, but circumstances do not determine whether or not God is with us. (**Romans 8:31, Genesis 39:1-2, Genesis 39:20-23**) The presence of a problem (storm) doesn't mean the absence of the presence of God and the presence of God doesn't mean the absence of storms. (**Hebrews 13:5, Psalm 34:18, Mark 4:35-40, Psalm 23:4**) In disappointing circumstances, God moves in close to us and invites us to hope in Him. (**2Corinthians 4:16-18**) When we are aware God is with us, circumstances may disappoint us but they won't defeat us; we will prosper in hope. (**Romans 5:5, Genesis 39:2**)
2. **Hold on to God's promises.** Circumstances may be bad, but they have no authority over the promises of God. (**Genesis 37:5-7, Psalm 105:17-19, 2 Corinthians 1:20, Mark 4:35**) Truth, the realities of heaven, are always superior to fact, the things we see, hear and feel. Our circumstances are fact, but God's hope is truth. Worldly facts don't have authority over heavenly truth. (**Romans 4:18-21**)
3. **Worship with our lives.** Worship isn't just a song we sing, it's living with hope, knowing God is greater than our disappointments. Worshipping with our lives is whole-heartedly engaging circumstances no matter how disappointing they may be. (**Romans 12:1, Colossians 3:23-24**) When we lift up the name of Jesus, we lift our eyes to the goodness of God instead of the pain of the moment. This enables hope to reign upon our lives. (**Acts 16:25**) When we are disappointed we have the choice to complain or worship, to talk about how bad the circumstance is or about how good God is. (**Proverbs 18:21**) Engaging our circumstances with our whole heart is faith. (**Hebrews 11:1,6**) We are beloved children of God, sent to be kingdom leaders, with authority to bring heaven to earth, with the favor of the King who is our Father. Therefore, we don't live down to our circumstances, we live up to our calling. (**Ephesians 4:1, Romans 8:28, Genesis 50:20**)

DISCUSSION

1. Hope displaces disappointment because God is with us. How can you live this week being more aware of God's presence with you? (See point #1)
2. Our lives are full of facts but our hearts need to be full of truth. What facts are playing over and over in your mind? What truth can you apply to your circumstances to take authority over these facts? (See point #2)
3. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step?**