

DISCUSSION GUIDE

December 2, 2018

A Rooted Life:

BIG IDEA: If we will get rooted in Jesus we will flourish in life.



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 behavior or belief that moves us forward on our journey with Jesus.

My Story. An encounter with Jesus leaves a story to tell. Share yours at valleycreek.org/MyStory.
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KEY VERSE

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

This week, we are starting our December reading plan. Take one step and join in with our Valley Creek family as we engage a chapter a day for the month of December.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Our theme for 2018 has been Rooted in Jesus – Flourish in Life. (**Colossians 2:6-7, Ephesians 3:14-19**) The invitation was to go back to the basics of a relationship with Jesus and build our lives in Him. As we approach the end of 2018, we realize that what began as a theme has become a lifestyle. We look back on the year and can identify both roots and fruit in our lives. This is a vision fulfilled.

Here's what living a lifestyle of being rooted in Jesus looks like:

1. When we get rooted in Jesus, we'll flourish in life. Deep roots lead to a wide life. Often, we spend our lives getting rooted in the wrong things and our root structure can't support the weight of our lives. This leaves us weary and barren. To be rooted in Jesus means to:
 - a) Rest on Him. (**Matthew 11:28-30 MSG**)
 - b) Receive from Him. (**Philippians 4:19, Romans 5:17**)
 - c) Trust in Him. (**Jeremiah 17:5-8, John 15:4-5**)
2. Many of us receive Jesus as Lord but we never get rooted in Him, so we don't flourish in life. Here are five roots of connection/intimacy to become rooted in Jesus and flourish in life:
 - a) Engage the Scriptures. (**John 5:39-40**)
 - b) Talk with God. (**Hebrews 4:16**)
 - c) Build godly relationships. (**Matthew 18:20**)
 - d) Meet the needs you see. (**Matthew 25:40**)
 - e) Invest your time. (**Acts 2:42, Colossians 3:3**)
3. We have goals, resolutions, and hopes for our lives but we need a vision. (**Proverbs 29:18 KJV**) Direction, not intention, determines our destiny. Being rooted in Jesus is about moving from religion into relationship. It's easy to identify with Jesus without connecting to Him. Let's go back to the basics and turn the affection of our heart to Jesus. (**Psalms 37:4, Revelation 2:4-5**) What we are rooted in will be reflected in the fruit of our lives; we can be rooted in money, work, hobbies, family. When we get rooted in Jesus, the fruit of Jesus effortlessly shows up in our lives. (**Revelation 22:16**) We don't have to try harder, behave better, or do more, we simply need to rest on Him, receive from Him, and trust in Him. (**John 4:10**)

DISCUSSION

1. In this year of getting rooted, how have you been resting on, receiving from, and trusting in Jesus? (See point #1)
2. Of the five roots of connection, which one have you seen the most growth in this year and which one is God inviting you to grow in the current season? (See point #2)
3. Direction determines our destiny. What are some active steps you can take this week to begin the process of continuing to become rooted in Jesus?
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step in getting Rooted in Jesus?**