

DISCUSSION GUIDE



October 27/30, 2016

BIG IDEA: When you lose sight of your mission, you will lose sight of your hope.

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 action that advances our journey with Jesus.

KEY VERSE

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Take inventory of the music you listen to and the shows you watch. Make a conscious effort to *reduce* the world's influences and *increase* the kingdom's influences in your life. Note the difference it makes to your mindset and mood when you have a kingdom focus!

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

1. We live in an ungodly world – not unlike a lion's den. The world is winding down, but the kingdom of God is winding up. (**Romans 6:16; Matthew 24:12-14; Luke 16:16**)
2. The people of God are called to influence *nations*, not just individuals. (**Genesis 1:28; Matthew 28:18-19**) All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Satan has no authority – he can roar but he cannot bite. (**Matthew 16:18-19; 1 John 4:4**)

Here are four things the world wants to do to us, and our responses:

3. Change our thinking. (**Daniel 1:1-4**) The world wants us to think like them (evolution, movies, media, music, etc). *Our response is to meditate on the Word of God.* (**Romans 12:2; Matthew 16:23; Psalm 119:11**)
4. Change our tastes. (**Daniel 1:5a**) The world wants to give us a taste for sin, but we have a taste for the presence of God. (**Hebrews 11:25; James 1:13-15; Psalm 34:8; Psalm 23:5**) *Our response is to feast on the bread of life and drink from the spring of living water.* (**John 6:35**)
5. Train us in the ways of darkness. (**Daniel 1:5b**) The world wants to move us from the law of God to the rules of man. *Our response is to embrace our spiritual training.* (**Isaiah 55:9; 1 Timothy 4:7; Psalm 25:4**) Church is not an optional experience; it's a necessary gathering to equip our hearts and hands.
6. Change our identity. (**Daniel 1:6-7**) When we lose our identity, we lose our purpose. *Our response is to, by faith, believe we are who He says we are, regardless of how we feel.* (**1 Peter 2:9**) In Jesus, we are the righteousness of God – His beloved sons/daughters.
7. There are four common responses when the world tries to conform us:
 - a. Ostrich – bury our heads in the sand; pretend it's not happening
 - b. Road Runner – run fast; outrun the brokenness; fill up our lives
 - c. Rooster – obnoxiously strut; argue; crow; criticize
 - d. Eagle (**Isaiah 40:31**) – take on God's kingdom perspective
8. God's ways work. When we live out God's ways, the world will see His goodness and want to know our secret. (**Daniel 1:15-20; 2 Corinthians 4:8-10**)

DISCUSSION

1. Which of the four reactions do you have the most often? (See point #7)
2. What are some ways the world tries to change your thinking? (See point #3)
3. Share an example when you followed God's ways and the world noticed. (See point #8)

- **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