

DISCUSSION GUIDE



FOLLOW
THE
CLOUD

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Aug. 31/ Sept. 3, 2017
Follow The Cloud - Hurricane
BIG IDEA: Who you are determines what you do.

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.

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KEY VERSE

"...which of these do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10: 36-37

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Ask God how He wants you to partner with the Next Steps Center in response to Hurricane Harvey. Check out valleycreek.org/missions-local for serving and donation opportunities.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Following the cloud is living our lives with a willingness to change our plans to respond to what God is asking. **(Proverbs 16:9)** Often we hear God then we stop listening, instead of being in tune to what God is speaking in the moment. We build our lives on what God is saying, not on what He has said. **(Matthew 4:4)**

1. The Good Samaritan is a prophetic picture of Jesus. **(Luke 10:30-37)** We were broken, beat up and left to die when Jesus entered our lives. Jesus saw us, had compassion on us and went out of His way for us. He bound our wounds, healed us and paid for all the expenses we would ever have to pay. When we understand what Jesus did for us, we can go and do the same for others. We can't change the world if we don't love our neighbor. We put the love of God on display first where we are, then in our region and then to the world. **(Acts 1:8)**
2. Every day there is a storm with the magnitude of a hurricane, which rips through the souls and the lives of the people all around us. **(Matthew 9:36-38)** When crisis happens, it stirs within us an awakening to our purpose. We were made in the image and likeness of God and we are created to be on co-mission with Him; to serve, give, love and help people find life, hope and the goodness of God. **(Genesis 1:28)**
3. It's trendy to be involved in social justice because it makes us feel good about ourselves. However, it's Christ-like to put God's love on display. In Jesus, we become new creations and then we spend our lives doing significant things. **(Ephesians 2:10)** True love always leads people to the resurrected Christ. Jesus was always led by God's love and not motivated by human need. This caused Him to be peaceful, strategic and effective in every situation. Our motivation to help others will wear out, but the love of the Father never runs dry.
4. Who we are determines what we do. We are the light of the world who brings light to a dark world. We are the salt of the earth who brings taste to a flavorless world. We are the righteousness of God so we make wrong things right. We are set free in Christ so we can release the captives. We have been blessed so we become a blessing. The kingdom of God is within us which means our steps release heavenly life. **(Luke 17:21)** Once God delivers us, we become a deliverer; the Jesus in us is the answer to the world's cries.
5. We are the people of God, united by the spirit of God under the lordship of Jesus sent to change the world. We've been equipped to be part of the purposes of God beyond the crisis. **(Genesis 50:20)** Biblical salvation means to save, heal and make whole. We have an invitation for our hearts to become whole and live in the fullness of the gospel as we take a small step of compassion that will impact the people in the cities around us.

DISCUSSION

1. How has Hurricane Harvey made you grateful for the goodness of God in your life?
2. How can we be stirred everyday by the love of God not just during a crisis? (See point #2)
3. The Good Samaritan, Jesus, has saved you, healed you and made you whole. How can you share your story with others? (See point #1)
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? How will you engage in the Follow the Cloud challenge?**



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