



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

January 25/28, 2018

Build Godly Relationships

**BIG IDEA:** Godly relationships are one of the most important, yet overlooked, roots of a fruitful 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 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](http://valleycreek.org/MyStory).

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## KEY VERSE

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20

## POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Create space this week to meet face to face with a friend to talk about Jesus. Ask questions like, when did Jesus become real to you? What is Jesus talking with you about in this season? What is your next step?

As you talk about Jesus, take note that He is with you as Matthew 18:20 states.

## MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

One of the defining features of the early Church was godly relationships. (Acts 2:42-47) Godly relationships are intentional, face-to-face relationships, where we talk about, learn about, and become like Jesus together. To follow Jesus is to be deeply related to other followers of Jesus. Without godly relationships, we are not fully alive or fully experiencing the life God has for us.

1. **We were made for godly relationships.** God isn't just interested in community, He is community; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Adam was made in the image and likeness of the Father, therefore, he was made to need and desire godly relationships. (Genesis 1:26) In the perfection of creation, God said it wasn't good for man to be alone, not referring to marriage, but godly relationships. If it wasn't good for man to be without godly relationships in the perfection of the garden, then it's intolerable for us to be without godly relationships today. (Genesis 2:18) When Adam sinned, the beauty of godly relationships was fractured, but Jesus restored what was lost in the garden. (Romans 5:17) As we become rooted in Jesus, we become intertwined with one another. The Jesus in us is stronger than the differences that may divide us. (John 17:20-23 TPT)
2. **Godly relationships show us Jesus.** Our godly relationships re-present Jesus to us and we are commissioned to do for others what Jesus did for us. (Galatians 2:20) We see unique facets of Jesus in our godly relationships that we wouldn't otherwise see. (1 Corinthians 12:12, 14-20, 27 TPT) Within godly relationships we experience the practical grace and love of Jesus. (1 John 4:11-12 NLT) God gives us treasure through the broken lives of those around us if we will humbly receive it. (2 Corinthians 4:7) We position ourselves to meet with Jesus through godly relationships. (Matthew 18:20, John 20:24-28)
3. **Godly relationships help us grow and stay grounded.** Whomever our roots are intertwined with, we become like. (Proverbs 13:20 TPT) We need people to hold us up, to celebrate with us, and to help us rest on, receive from, and trust in Jesus. We need to be challenged, pushed, pruned, inspired, and loved. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

How do we find godly relationships?

- a) **Ask God to give us the desire for godly relationships.**
- b) **Create space for godly relationships in our lives.** We want to create space for face-to-face relationships with those who are on mission with us. (John 1:14)
- c) **Try, try again, and try again.** Godly relationships don't just happen, they are built. We are never too new to find a godly relationship and we're never too mature to not need them.

## DISCUSSION

1. What can we learn from the early Church about being in relationship with other believers? (See summary, Acts 2:42-47)
2. Godly relationships are an atmosphere of grace that completely transforms us. Have you ever experienced the practical grace and love of Jesus through another person? What impact did it have on you? (See point #2)
3. What could you potentially change in your schedule/routine to create space to meet with a godly relationship? (See point b)
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step?**