



DISCUSSION GUIDE

August 23/26, 2018

Rooted in Favor

BIG IDEA: In Jesus you have the undeserved, unearned, unending favor of God.

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.
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KEY VERSE

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Luke 4:18-19

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Every morning thank God for His favor in your life. Ask Him to open your eyes to all the ways He shows you favor.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Jesus came to release the unending favor of God in our lives. **(Luke 4:18-19)** Favor is when God supernaturally works on our behalf. He gives us favor so we can be empowered to live like Jesus and release the kingdom everywhere we go. Favor is not the possessions we hold in our hands, it’s the perspective we hold in our hearts.

1. **In Jesus we have the favor of God.** Under the law, God’s favor was based on our performance; if we lived right we could earn God’s favor. The focus was on our behavior. God, in His goodness, made a better way. Under grace, God’s favor is in our lives based on Jesus’ performance, not ours. Now the focus is on Jesus and what He’s done. He obeyed so we are forever blessed. **(Psalm 30:5)** Jesus didn’t just make a way for us to get to heaven someday; He opened heaven for us today. **(John 1:51, Psalm 5:12)** All we need to do is recognize and receive His favor. **(Galatians 3:5, Ephesians 1:6AMP)** Favor is God using all He is and has to bless us, so we can be empowered to live like Jesus. **(Psalm 30:5, Matthew 7:11)**
2. **God is with us and He is for us.** It is impossible for God to be with us without being for us. **(John 1:14, Acts 10:38, Romans 8:31-32)** Every good thing in our lives is the favor of God, and His favor isn’t circumstantial. **(James 1:17, Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 5:7)** The favor of God is permanent even if we’re temporarily in a pit.
3. **Favor changes how we live.** Jesus knew He had the favor of God so He walked into every situation expecting the favor of God. Favor is knowing the Lord is already working on our behalf.

As we head into the week **REMEMBER;**

God is on our team. God is for us. He’s created, redeemed, called and chosen us. God can do more in one moment of divine favor than we can do in a lifetime of performance.

Our favor is meant to flow. God has given us His favor, so we can show the world the undeserved goodness of God. His favor is meant to build His kingdom, not our own. **(Genesis 12:2)**

Sometimes favor comes as closed doors. Sometimes what we see as goodness is actually destruction in waiting. The next time there is a closed door, look at it as God’s favor. **(Proverbs 16:25)**

Speak favor over our lives. Begin to declare God’s goodness and anticipate His blessing. **(Proverbs 18:21)**

DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever been uniquely favored by someone in your life? How did having that person’s favor change your daily perspective and actions? Compare this to having God’s favor.
2. Favor is anticipating blessing; fear is anticipating disaster. Which do you expect more in your life? Why?
3. This week, how can you use the favor God has given you to release His kingdom?
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step in applying this week’s truth to your life?**