



DISCUSSION GUIDE

August 30/Sept 3, 2018

Rooted in Love

BIG IDEA: In Jesus, you are fully loved.

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

This is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his sent Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

You can only be loved by others to the level that you are known by them. When you meet with your group this week, encourage others to be more open about their life by sharing more about your life.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Love is the most powerful force in the universe. The love of the Father allows us to flourish and it's not until we choose to receive His love that we will fully flourish in life. Love is not meant to be known, it is meant to be experienced.

1. **In Jesus we are fully loved.** There is never a moment in time when we are not loved by our Father. (**Jeremiah 31:3**) His love is based on who He is, not what we do. God knows our failures, flaws, brokenness, and secrets. The One who knows us the best, loves us the most. Sometimes, we don't feel fully loved because we don't believe we are fully known; we settle for partial love because we're afraid we won't be loved if we're fully known. When we confess our sins to the Father, it invites His love into our life. Confession simply helps us discover the love that is already there. (**1 John 4:16**) Jesus is love and He is meant to be experienced. (**1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Ephesians 3:16-20**) By focusing on His love for us, we are able to love ourselves and others to the level we are loved. (**1 John 3:16, Romans 8:32, 1 John 4:19, 1 John 4:10**)
2. **Not only does God love us, He likes us.** God is our creator, and just like any artist, He likes and enjoys His masterpieces. (**Ephesians 2:10NLT, Zephaniah 3:17**) Sometimes we believe He loves us, but believing He likes us is harder to grasp. Jesus calls us friends and wants to spend time with us. (**Luke 7:34, Mark 3:13-14**) When we focus more on what we do for Jesus versus what He has done for us, it makes us prideful. We feel like we have to earn the love that is already freely ours. (**Luke 15:31**) The world creates fearful spiritual orphans; religion creates prideful spiritual slaves. Jesus came to make us free beloved children. (**1 John 3:1**) In Jesus, we are beloved sons and daughters in whom He is well pleased, before we do anything right and even after we do everything wrong.
3. **Love changes how we live.** Love empowers us to walk in victory. **Love makes us fearless** – The love of the Father comes and aggressively drives out fear. (**1 John 4:18**) **Love makes us free** – When our heart is full of the love of the Father, we aren't interested in worldly things. Our hearts are made for love. (**1 John 2:15**) **Love makes us secure** - When we receive His love, we are secure in our identity as loved sons and daughters. Our identity is love and no one or no circumstance can tell us otherwise. (**John 5:32**) **Love gives us purpose** – When we are rooted in love, we are compelled to give the love of God to the world. When we receive the love of God, we no longer live *for* love but *from* it. (**2 Corinthians 5:14**)

DISCUSSION

1. Home is not a place you go, it's a love you receive. In the Luke 15 story, do you resonate more with the son returning from the pig pen or the son in the field of pride? Why? (**See point #2**)
2. Insecurity is a byproduct of a loveless life. Where in your life are you insecure and how is God inviting you to receive His love to drive out insecurity? (**See point #3**)
3. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step in receiving the love of the father?