

WEEK 9 | PARTNERSHIP & MVP

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

In week 9, we move from why church is important to making a commitment to be an active part of the church. We will share about partnership with The Creek and give a chance for interaction when you meet this week. In preparation for the discussion, you will work through The Creek's MVP and pieces of the partnership commitment.

NOTE

- The Companion Guide will direct you to your daily readings this week.
- Responses will be completed in the Companion Guide.
- Your group's next meeting will look a little different as you gather for The Creek Partnership Class. There will be a shorter amount of time for discussion.

DAILY WORK

Day 1: All in the Family | read pages 208-209

Day 2: Part of The Creek Family- For the 317, Mission & Vision | reading included in Companion Guide

Day 3: Rooted Rhythms → Priorities | reading included in Companion Guide

Day 4: Partnership Reflection – Expectations | reading included in Companion Guide

Day 5: Partnership Reflection - Expression of Commitment | reading included in Companion Guide

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. - Colossians 3:12

EXTRA RESOURCES

- Found at thecreek.org/sermons:
 - Seven sermon series
 - For the 317 sermon series

BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

Pause and ask God to show you what is most important for you to pay attention to in today's reading and reflection questions. Ask Him to help you surrender any concern over getting it right and instead focus on what He wants you to learn about who He is and what He wants to show you today.



DAY 1: ALL IN THE FAMILY

Read pages 208-209 in your Rooted Workbook and prayerfully answer the following questions.

- When it comes to church, how would you describe the difference between attending and belonging?
- What changes when you think of church as a family rather than a place you occasionally attend?

DAY 2: PART OF THE CREEK FAMILY

Now that we've talked about the importance of being part of a church family, it is time to turn our attention to being part of this church family at The Creek. This week, we're diving into what The Creek is about, as defined by our Mission, Vision, and Priorities (our MVP). And we're exploring how we declare we're all in by becoming a partner with The Creek.

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus gave His church our marching orders:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

This command from Jesus – His final words on earth to His followers – is the basis of our vision to **connect people to Jesus**.

Read John 15:1-5 and Mark 2.

There are two aspects of connecting people to Jesus.

First, we must be connected ourselves; we are the branch, he is the vine, and the most pressing priority on our life, every single day, is to remain in Him. It is the only path to life – a disconnected branch will die.

The second aspect of our vision is helping people who do not yet believe in God learn the good news of who God is and all that He has done for the world, and to know that they can have a personal relationship with God by placing their faith in Jesus. We want to have the kind of attitude that won't stop getting people close to Jesus – even if it means destroying the roof!

Our vision is connecting people to Jesus and our mission is **loving God, loving people, and making disciples**.

This mission comes straight from both Matthew 28, which we read above, and Matthew 22:36-40, that says:

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Loving God is about meeting Him in Scripture and in worship so that we can stay faithful, pursue Him, and obey Him joyfully. Loving people is not passive. It's about living on mission and sharing the hope we have in Jesus. Theologian Dallas Willard says, "Love is not desire — it is to will the good of others... We love something or someone when we promote its good for its own sake." Making disciples is about being a disciple – a follower who is abiding and maturing in Christ – who is investing in relationships with others, helping them abide and mature.

When we set our eyes on loving God, loving people, and making disciples, our vision of connecting people to Jesus will be a natural by-product. This mission doesn't happen without work on our part, and it doesn't happen overnight. In fact, within ourselves, we aren't capable to show that kind of love. Read 1 John 4:7-12. The love that we share with God and with those around us comes from God Himself! That is why staying connected to the vine, and drawing our life and love from that connection to Jesus is absolutely critical.

Reflection:

- What's your honest reaction to connecting people to Jesus? What emotions or thoughts does that trigger?
- Read Mark 10:45 and Luke 19:10. What did Jesus say his mission was while on earth? What stories of Jesus come to mind what you think of him serving others or seeking the lost?
- Reflect on the reading from 1 John 4. How might the idea of loving God or loving people change when you realize that it is God's own love for us that we're sharing?
- Of loving God, loving people, and making disciples, which one comes more naturally for you? Which one seems to be more of a struggle? Express your eagerness and your concerns to God in an honest prayer.

DAY 3: ROOTED RHYTHMS → PRIORITIES

Read Ephesians 2:20-22. Throughout the New Testament, the Church is referenced as the dwelling place of God. We're not just members of a family, we are the blocks with which God is building a temple for His Spirit to live and act in the world. As this earthly temple, there are certain things that naturally become priorities for us, both individually and as a church.

The rhythms of a life group that you've explored in Rooted are about action. They describe how a group will interact, the activities and lifestyle choices they will make, and the regular rhythms they will adopt.

Here are those rhythms you've participated in:

- Daily Devotion – intentional reading and reflecting on God's Word.
- Prayer – regular communication with God through the prayer experience, daily work, and group time.
- Repentance – sharing strongholds with one another and being open with your struggles.
- Sacrificial Generosity – learning about and perhaps starting to practice generosity with your time, talent, and treasures.
- Serve the Community – you learned what it means to serve the church community as well as the community around us. And you put that into practice at a serve experience.
- Share Your Story – you've shared your testimony and learned how to see God's intervention in your life so that you're able to share the hope you have in Christ with your friends and family.
- Worship – you've celebrated together, valued the importance of regularly participating in worship services, and learned how worship is a whole-life response to God's goodness.

The priorities of The Creek describe less of what we do, and more of who we want to be as the temple of the Holy Spirit. You'll notice overlaps in the language of Rooted rhythms and The Creek's priorities, but as you read these priorities, remember these are about who we're becoming by participating in the rhythms.

Here are the 7 priorities of The Creek:

- Worship | We seek God's presence and honor in everything we do.
- Gospel | We proclaim the good news of Jesus and center our lives on his teaching and example.
- Kingdom | We desire to see the fame and deeds of God renewed in our day – in Indianapolis and around the world.
- Scripture | We delight in God's word and live it out on a daily basis.
- Identity | We receive God's love and embrace our adoption as sons and daughters.
- Community | We value relationships and build our lives together as family.
- Generosity | We share our resources to enrich others and advance God's kingdom.

You could say we are a "Worship People" or a "Scripture People," because these statements reflect how we find our identity in Christ and live in response to Him. This isn't something unique to our church—it can be true for anyone who follows Christ. Daily rhythms like devotion, prayer, and serving help shape us into this kind of people.

Reflection:

- What does Ephesians 2:22 mean when it says, “And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit”?
- How would you describe the similarities between the Rooted rhythms and The Creek’s priorities? The differences?
- How will you live out the priorities of The Creek in your own life? How will practicing the rhythms of Rooted help you do that?
- Your participation in your life group will have a corresponding effect. As you engage, consider: How can your group support you in living out these priorities? And in turn, how can you help your group do the same?

DAY 4: PARTNERSHIP REFLECTION- EXPECTATIONS

During this week's group meeting, we will learn more about what partnership with The Creek is about. In preparation for that meeting, we're going to explore the parts of the agreement.

Read Colossians 3:12-17. How does the instruction to "put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity," inform how you approach these expectations?

Expectations of The Creek

- Faithfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus and accurately teach sound doctrine, in accordance with the Scriptures and our statement of faith.
- Focus the ministry of the church toward embodying our priorities and accomplishing our mission and vision, both individually and collectively.
- Shepherd those in the church toward maturity in faith and wholeness in Christ.
- Equip those in the church for the work of ministry.
- Pray for the needs of the body, especially those who are sick and in need.
- Steward the financial resources entrusted to the church with wisdom, integrity, and transparency.
- Appoint leaders who strive to live a life that is above reproach, worthy of Christ, and worthy of emulation.
- Communicate about the health and direction of the church honestly and transparently.

Expectations of Partners

- Align with the doctrinal beliefs of our church, expressed in our statement of faith.
- Engage with and live out The Creek's mission, vision, and priorities.
- Maintain unity with the body and with one another, giving no place for pride, bitterness, gossip, slander, or division.
- Resolve conflict as quickly as possible, motivated by love and a desire for restoration, in accordance with biblical directions.
- Pursue personal holiness in all areas of life, in accordance with the Scriptures.
- Prioritize weekly worship gatherings and pursue deep, meaningful relationships characterized by encouragement and accountability with others at The Creek.
- Use their time, talents, and spiritual gifts for strengthening the body and serving the community.
- Give generously to support the ministry of the church.
- Submit to the spiritual authority of the elders at The Creek, making the work of leadership a joy.

Reflection:

- Which of the expectations of The Creek stand out to you? Why?
- Which of the expectations of partners stand out to you? Why?
- What makes you eager to join as a partner of The Creek? What causes hesitation?

DAY 5:

PARTNERSHIP REFLECTION- EXPRESSION OF COMMITMENT

If you sense God leading you and choose to become a partner, you'll be agreeing to this expression of commitment.

As a baptized follower of Jesus, I hereby affirm (or reaffirm) my desire to partner with the faith family at The Creek, by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, for the glory of God. I am in agreement with The Creek's statement of faith and desire to embody The Creek's priorities and carry out The Creek's mission and vision. I am committed to being actively engaged in this church family. I understand and agree with the expectations The Creek has of me, as well as the expectations The Creek has agreed to on my behalf. I recognize this relationship can be dissolved at any time, either by my choosing or by the decision of the elders of The Creek.

Often, we can skip past a statement like this (terms and conditions, anyone?) and just sign on the line. Instead, as you have read the expectations yesterday and this statement of commitment today, and as you prepare to hear more about partnership in your next group meeting, we invite you to pause, read slowly through them and pray.

Reflection

- What part of this commitment brings excitement or joy?
- Does any part raise questions for you?
- What does it mean to you to sign this by the prompting of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of God?

FINAL REFLECTIONS

As you prepare for the conversation in your group, take a few moments to look over the readings and your responses from the past five days.

- What did God teach you this week? What questions do you have?
- What is one way God is inviting you to grow or change from this week's material?
- In light of this time of reflection, what are you asking God for?

PARTNERSHIP CLASS NOTES