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Valley Church

July 4 & 5, 2020
Week 1 – Never Forsaken (Deut. 31:6)

Introduction:

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

The World's Formula:

"If you want to avoid the pain of rejection you must perform at the level of perfection or at least make people believe you are."

Hebrews 10:10

Ephesians 3:12

Ephesians 1:6

Never Forsaken: Three Realities...

1. **Jesus was _____ so you wouldn't be.**
John 1:11; Hebrews 4:16
2. **Jesus was _____ so you wouldn't have to be.**
Titus 3:5; John 6:28-29
3. **Jesus' _____ by the Father shows us we're accepted.**
Matthew 3:17; John 6:37

The Big Idea:

Your Heavenly Father SEES you, LOVES you and is PLEASED with you. Let that reality guide every relationship and see what happens!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Can you remember an event or season of your younger life when you went to some ridiculous extreme to be accepted by a group? Share about that experience. Why do you think you were so bent on feeling accepted?

Ponderings:

2. One of the great promises of Scripture – among the top of the “playlist” is God’s promise that He will “never leave you or forsake you.” Has this promise ever been on your personal playlist? At what moments or seasons in life have you clung to this promise? Discuss...
3. The rejection Jesus felt on the cross was experienced in order to secure your unconditional acceptance before God. How often do you deeply ponder the fact that Jesus literally switched places with you? What sense of value does such a reality bring to your daily life?
4. The fact that Jesus was perfect so you wouldn’t have to be is a great comfort to those living in a perfectionistic world. Do you personally struggle with perfectionism? Where is the line drawn between legitimate progress and achievement versus unhealthy perfectionism? Discuss...
5. Jesus’ acceptance by the Father is a gift He passes on to you free of charge. Do you ever feel unacceptable to God? Be honest and share about how confidence of God’s acceptance – or lack thereof – has the power to deeply affect your daily life...

Promptings:

6. Is there someone within your sphere of influence who is seeking acceptance from God or from you? Are you willing to go the extra mile this week to communicate the truth of their acceptability? Pray for that person or situation now, and purpose in your heart to take action this week...