

Cultivate Discussion Guide

How To Raise Great Kids March 16 and 17, 2019

If you missed this weekend's message, view it at cultivate.sc/discussion

A Note for Leaders: As the group leader, you have the freedom to rephrase and/or choose the questions that meet your group's unique needs. Remember, it's okay if you don't answer every question. The goal of your time together is to have REAL conversation about the topics that are most meaningful to your group. Lead the conversation, while being inclusive and giving everyone the opportunity to participate.

Reflect: Think about this weekend's message. What did you learn? Were you encouraged or surprised? Did something frustrate you or make you feel uncomfortable? Share your thoughts with your group.

Cultivate Truth: We'll be students of God's word our entire lives - always learning and being changed by His truth. That process may include questioning God or having doubts about His plans. We're human, after all. Consider the following verses as you answer question #1:

"Every scripture has been inspired by the Holy Spirit, the breath of God. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness." 2 Timothy 3:16 TPT

"Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes." Romans 12:2 TPT

#1: How do you cultivate truth into your life? Do you receive instruction and correction from God's word? Do you feel the freedom to bring Him your questions or doubts? How do you ultimately move beyond your emotions and even popular opinion to trust His authority and His word?

Pastor Matt reminded us that while men and women are essential and equal partners in God's design, we ARE NOT identical. Gender is a REAL thing, and God created us to be unique and different. Men parent differently and also process life, emotion and communication differently than women.

Have a REAL conversation with your group, but keep in mind that we're discussing how YOU can be transformed by the truth of God's word - not how others should respond. *Don't bash men, husbands or anyone, for that matter.*

#2: How have your family dynamics, culture or past experiences contributed to your understanding of gender roles (men and women) - either positively or negatively?

#3: How does the understanding of men's uniqueness change the way you view the men in your life - whether it be your father, husband, son, significant other or even an important male figure?

If you're married: How can you be more affirming of your husband and his uniqueness? Are you prone to nag, rebuke or emasculate him because he doesn't do things the same way you do? Are you willing to ask your husband how he experiences you and if needed, change the way you communicate to serve each other better?

If you're not married: Pastor Matt encouraged you to choose someone you respect now, because you can't change them later. Does that alter your perspective of your current relationships? Can you be more affirming or respectful of the men in your life - whether in family, dating or friendship?

If you're a parent: How are you encouraging your children to value both men and women as equal and essential? Is there any behavior or attitude your children see you exhibit toward men that could diminish that understanding? If you're a mom to a son, how do you support him becoming the man God created by practicing respect and healthy boundaries?

#4: Jesus came to serve us by giving His own life. He left us the Holy Spirit to be our helper and guide. God created women to serve and to help, but today's culture finds that idea oppressive, rather than purposeful and valuable. We are EACH different, but we are ALL precious, chosen, and loved by God.

Is that how you see yourself? Do you have any perceptions about your identity in Christ that are not in line with how God sees you as His beloved daughter?

Be REAL with your group about your struggles, insecurities, and the areas you want to grow as a woman of God. Encourage one another in your strengths and giftings. No matter if you're married, single, a parent or are a retired empty nester, treat one another with respect and kindness making room for every woman's unique voice.

Cultivate Prayer: Close your time together in prayer. Take a moment to confess any area of unbelief in God's word and ask Him to help you cultivate truth into your lives, trusting that He knows what He's doing. Ask Him to help you work out our vision of being REAL with self, God and others, through the power of His truth and the purpose of His design.

We're Here to Help: If anyone in your group is struggling with gender roles, a difficult marriage or needs support as a parent, encourage them to reach out to our Soul Care Team. Visit move.sc/help.