

Cultivate Discussion Guide

A Fresh Start April 20 & 21 | Easter 2019

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

A few tips for leaders:

- ❖ To help everyone follow along, have them print the Discussion Guide or pull it up on their phone.
 - ❖ It's okay if you don't answer every question! Your goal is to have REAL conversation about the topics/questions that are most meaningful to the group.
 - ❖ If questions remain unanswered, encourage women to work through them as they cultivate God's word on their own throughout the week.
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A Note to Leaders: Take time to ask if anyone in your group made a first-time commitment or re-dedicated their life to Christ this weekend. Maybe someone is ready to make a fresh start today? Take the time to acknowledge that decision, pray and cheer them on!

Pause & Reflect: This weekend, we came together as believers to remember and celebrate. Jesus demonstrated the ultimate act of obedience and love by submitting to the Father's will and enduring the cross for us...

"We fasten our gaze onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith's perfection. His example is this: Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God!" Hebrews 12:2 TPT

Close your eyes. Shut out the cares and concerns of this day. Turn your heart toward Jesus. Reflect on the agony our perfect Savior endured as He was tried, humiliated and ultimately crucified. Consider the depth of that kind of love.

- **Say out loud the first word that comes to mind when you think of Jesus' love for you. You could even speak short, one sentence prayers offering thanks and praise. Keep going until you feel this time is complete or everyone is done sharing.**

Cultivate Truth: The same power that brought Jesus back from the dead has the power to give us a fresh start, heal our brokenness and answer our prayers. Sometimes that power can feel out of reach in the middle of our pain, confusion and circumstances. We can believe in God, but still struggle with believing He is able to meet our needs.

#1: Is there something you're waiting on God for?

Maybe you've prayed for a while and your faith is wavering. You might worry whether God will deliver for you or what it will look like when he does. You could be doubting his timeline or even wonder if he hears you at all.

- **Share your heart with your group.**
- **Jesus IS on the throne. How does that truth give you hope today?**
- **As a group, don't feel compelled to answer "why" or offer reasons, but listen and encourage one another in the truth of who God is.**

With the resurrection comes the promise that no matter where we are today, Jesus can start fresh from there. That good news is for everyone, even those who have lived with bad news. *Sin and pain are not the end of our story.*

God is writing hope and promise over our lives—He has been since the beginning. Jesus invites us into REAL relationship so that we can experience the life-changing power of faith. He broke through death, so we can have a breakthrough in life.

#2: Jesus loves us where we are, but too much to let us stay there. Is there anything in your life that is keeping you from experiencing a breakthrough?

Be REAL with yourself and others. This could be sin, but it could also be more subtle—a belief, habit or choice? A broken relationship or divided family? Fear, unforgiveness, insecurity? You might even want to pursue a dream, goal or desire, but something is holding you back.

- **Is this “thing” worth fighting for OR is it an opportunity to surrender?**
- **What would it take to lay what’s holding you back at the foot of the cross and start fresh, walking forward in Jesus’ strength?**

Our culture tends to look everywhere for advice, self-help and direction. The world is desperately seeking a teacher and Jesus says:

“Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest...Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
Matthew 11:28 NLT

#3: Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Share one thing you’ve learned from Jesus and how it has made a difference in your life.

None of us have arrived. We should ALWAYS be learning and growing. This could be something you learned when you first came to faith or just yesterday. It could be practical, relational or just overall spiritual growth.

Cultivate Prayer: Break into pairs and share one thing you’d like your partner to be praying for in the week ahead. Pray for one another and then commit to daily taking this request to God on her behalf. You could even text each other this week with words of encouragement and kindness. Let the Holy Spirit lead you and take note of how God moves.

We’re Here to Help: If someone in your group is struggling with something that’s holding them back or even with the truth that Jesus offers them a fresh start, we’re here to help. Encourage them to connect with our Soul Care Team at move.sc/help