

Cultivate Discussion Guide

The Truth About the Bible June 1 and 2, 2019

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

NEW tips for leaders:

- Prepare for group. Read the questions and choose the topics you believe will lead to REAL conversation.
 - It's okay if you don't answer every question. Your goal is to discuss what's most meaningful to your group.
 - Close in prayer – using our prompt or your own. We ALL need Jesus to help us live out what we're learning!
 - To help everyone follow along, ask them to print the Discussion Guide or pull it up on their phone.
 - 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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Reflect: Think about this weekend's message. Was there a moment, word or verse that stood out to you? Did God speak to you through the message? How did you feel convicted, challenged or encouraged?

Cultivate Truth: The Bible is written for us - the church. We are the called out ones and we don't get to use God's word to call out people who are not in the family of God. Many people who avoid Christianity are not running from God, they are running from "Christians" who have used God's word as a weapon of hate instead of an instrument of love.

Pastor Matt reminded us that at Sandals Church, we preach the word of God to the church and the heart of God to the world.

#1: Read the following verses:

"If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-2 NLT

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out." 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 NLT

- **What do these verses tell you about love?**
- **How should we preach God's heart to the world?**
- **Is there someone you're holding to the word of God [calling out] when they need the heart of God?**
- **What would it look like for you to stop preaching and start loving?**

Pastor Matt encouraged us that the gospel has the power to transform our lives when we read, obey and most importantly, trust it. Every believer has moments of doubt or unbelief, but we need to remember that God is bigger than our feelings and He is worthy of our faith.

#2: Is there any part of God's word you're struggling to trust?

- **As best as you can, explain what is causing your mistrust?** (eg: doubt, unbelief, lack of understanding, past experience or hurt, personal insecurity)
- **Jesus gave His life for you - to forgive, heal and restore you. What would it take for you to surrender what is holding you back and trust Him fully?**

God's word is the Christian's road map for living. We don't need to be Bible scholars to understand and appreciate it, but we should be students of God's word - eager to learn, grow and most importantly, LIVE like the Bible is REAL.

#3: Read Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

- **Share a time you experienced God's word as alive and powerful - whether it challenged, encouraged or equipped you.**
- **Describe what you most love or are learning to love about God's word?**

- **What is your greatest challenge when it comes to the Bible?** (eg: making time to read, getting distracted, feeling too vulnerable or exposed, understanding, etc.)
- **How would you like to grow as a student of God's word?**
- **Set a goal right now to grow in the way you most desire.**

The Cultivate Podcast: On Episode 6, Tammy and Melody welcome guest, Lisa Bevere for a REAL conversation on HOW TO...Be Bold and Not Be a B----. You're in for some incredible truth on living boldly with kindness, conviction and the uncompromising word of God! Tune in and get ready to talk about it next week.

Cultivate Prayer: Close group time in prayer in the way you feel most lead after discussion or use our prayer: Father, your word is alive and able to meet our deepest needs. Give us a renewed desire to be students of your word, wisdom for greater understanding and strength to endure the temptations and trials we face. We want to trust you more and live the truth of your word. Please help our unbelief and give us the courage and conviction to be REAL with ourselves, God and others. In Jesus name. Amen.