

Cultivate Discussion Guide

How to Grow Spiritually June 22 and 23, 2019

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

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: What about this weekend's message most spoke to you? How were you challenged or encouraged?

Read Galatians 3:3-5 NLT:

“After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.”

- **Is there an area of your life you're trying to make “perfect” by your own effort?**
- **What might be at the root of your efforts?** (pride, stubbornness, fear, desire, impatience, control)
- **What are some steps you can take to try less and trust more? Be specific. “I want to stop _____ and instead trust God to _____.”**

We are bewitched when we:

- Look away from the good news and turn to good advice
- Look away from the power of the spirit and turn to another source

#1: In your own words, describe the difference between seeking advice and pursuing wisdom?

- **When you need direction, which do you choose first?**
- **How has that either helped or hindered your spiritual growth?**

#2: Who do you trust to speak wisdom into your life?

- **How do you test their wisdom against the truth of God's word or the leading of the Holy Spirit?**

We spiritually grow when we:

- Remember where God found us
- Remember where God has us
- Remember where God is

#3: When you think about your life and faith journey, when have you experienced the most spiritual growth?

- **To what do you attribute that growth - your choices or God's work in you?**
- **Were you doing anything then that you'd like to return to doing now?**

Read 2 Peter 1:5-9 NLT

“So devote yourselves to lavishly supplementing your faith with goodness, and to goodness add understanding, and to understanding add the strength of self-control, and to self-control add patient endurance, and to patient endurance add godliness, and to godliness add mercy toward your brothers and sisters, and to mercy toward others add unending love.

Since these virtues are planted deep within, and you possess them in abundant supply, they will keep you from being inactive and fruitless in your pursuit of knowing Jesus Christ more intimately. But if anyone lacks these things, he is blind, constantly closing his eyes to the mysteries of our faith and forgetting his innocence - for his past sins have been washed away.”

#4: Share a way God is growing your faith. How are you seeing this growth bear fruit in your life and relationships?

#5: In which of the 2 Peter virtues would you like to grow spiritually?

- **What are some ways you can cultivate this into your life?**

#6: Do you ever struggle to believe your past sins have been washed away?

- **What stands between you and believing?**
- **How do you need your group to encourage you in the truth?**
- **If you're dealing with unconfessed sin, turn to God and ask Him to forgive you. He is faithful to cleanse us, when we are willing to confess!**

Cultivate Prayer: Break into pairs or small groups. Talk more about the way you'd like to most grow spiritually. Be REAL about any changes you need to make or habits/choices you can cultivate in your life to support that growth. Share one way your partner can encourage you and hold you accountable. Pray together and ask God, in His great love and power, to equip and strengthen you to grow in the way you most desire.

Need Help? If someone in your group is struggling with forgiveness or spiritual growth, we're here to help. Kindly encourage them to visit move.sc/help to connect with our Soul Care Team for prayer and support.

Summer Book Club: Beginning NEXT week, July 1, you'll find a bonus section right here in the Cultivate Discussion Guide with Chapter 1 questions from *Adamant* by Lisa Bevere. Under the direction of your leader, structure group time to focus on the sermon questions and/or book questions that are most meaningful to you. Visit cultivate.sc/adamant for all the details.