

Cultivate Discussion Guide

+ Bonus: Summer Book Club Questions

What is Real Freedom? July 13 and 14, 2019

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

Tips for leaders:

- Prepare for your group. Your goal is to choose the questions that will lead your group into REAL conversation about the topics most meaningful to you. It's okay if you don't answer them all!
 - 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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Cultivate Truth: God's definition of freedom is quite counter cultural. Real freedom in Christ doesn't mean doing what we want, when we want, but rather it requires sacrifice, obedience and ultimately, love.

Read the following verses:

"My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself. But if you keep attacking each other like wild animals, you had better watch out or you will destroy yourselves." Galatians 5:13-15 CEV

"If you love Me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15 ESV

"Loving Me empowers you to obey my commands." John 14:15 TPT

#1: According to Galatians 5, REAL freedom is an opportunity to do what?

- Is loving others a suggestion?
- What is the warning to us if we don't love one another well?

#2: According to John 14, how do we demonstrate our love toward God?

- What does loving God empower us to do?
- How does that truth encourage you to pursue REAL freedom?

REAL freedom means: we serve others in love NOT live for other people. Freedom is NOT found by comparing "best" lives, looking down on others or attempting to find our value in other people. Rather than free us, these things steal our joy and rob us of our unique purpose.

Read the following verses:

"We will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original." Galatians 5:26 MSG

"It's healthy to be content, but envy can eat you up." Proverbs 14:30 CEV

"Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life." Galatians 6:4-5 MSG

#3: Do you struggle with envy, comparison or questioning your value? This is a REAL issue for many of us - especially considering social media - so be REAL in your answers!

- Describe how these leave your spirit and soul feeling?
- Galatians 5:26 says each of us is an _____.
- According to Galatians 6:4-5, how should we live in response?
- How could living according to these verses free you to be more content?

The world tells us to: love others in response to the way they love us. That “love” often looks more like hate. Christ calls us to follow His example and love others like He loves us. That Love looks like obedience, sacrifice and selflessness ... and the reward is REAL freedom.

Choose one of the following questions:

#4: Describe what makes you feel most loved and free? This could be spiritually, emotionally, physically or relationally.

- What are some ways you could express, share or give that away to others?
- Think practically, then challenge yourself to act intentionally this week.

#5: Share a time you acted out of obedience, sacrifice or selflessness (even if it was hard) and found REAL freedom as a result. This could be spiritually, emotionally, physically or relationally.

Cultivate Prayer: Thank God for purchasing your freedom by willingly laying down His own life. Ask Him to empower you to love like He loves - by obeying God’s commands, investing in His people and living a life with your heart, mind and eyes fixed on Him, not on everyone or everything around you. ♥

Summer Book Club

Week 3 Discussion Questions Chapter 4, 5 and 6

Visit cultivate.sc/adamant for full book club details.

It’s Week 3 and we’re halfway through the Cultivate Summer Book Club! Answer the following questions and add your own personal insight, favorite passages and REAL conversation:

#1: In Chapter 4, Lisa describes God’s adamant love for us. What most spoke to your heart about the way God loves you?

#2: On page 92, Lisa says, “there are times when love means telling the truth and other times when love means being the truth.” Share a time you’ve had to know the difference in your life and act accordingly?

#3: On pages 92-104, Lisa shares how we can express love through the gifts of voice, knowledge, faith, and generosity. What stood out most to you about how God asks us to practice love?

- How does that compare to our culture’s ideas of love?

#4: How did Chapter 6 change your view of hate?

- What most stood out to you about what God hates?
- What did you learn about how we can love everyone without loving everything?

Prepare for next week’s discussion by reading Chapters 7-8 of Adamant.