

Cultivate Reflection Guide

Why Christians Remember the Crucifixion of Jesus September 4 & 5, 2021

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

Use our Reflection Guide for personal bible study, to start a REAL conversation with friends or under the direction of your community group leader. Choose the questions that challenge you to reflect and respond as you live out what we're learning. Keep in mind...*it's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

KINDLY NOTE: The YOU series begins at Sandals Church next weekend, September 11 & 12. Who can YOU invite to sit with you? Together, we're going to begin the journey of biblical self-discovery that will help us better understand ourselves, God and others SO THAT we can live the life we were created for.

Review Matthew 27:15-25. Invite God to speak into your life through His word.

We remember the crucifixion...

1) Because it happened:

- As you read the biblical account of an outraged crowd calling for Barabbas' release and Jesus' death, how are you personally encouraged or challenged by what Jesus endured for you?
- In verse 19, we're told Pilate's wife sends a warning. Has there ever been a time in your life when someone tried to advise, encourage or warn you, but you ignored it or chose your own way? What did you learn about yourself, God or others?

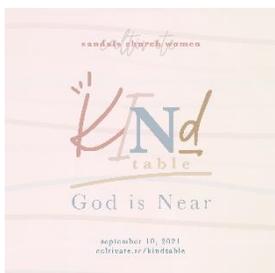
2) To refocus our priorities:

- Verse 18 reveals the crowd's motivation for wanting Jesus to die. What was that?
- Verse 28 reveals Pilate's motivation for conceding. Why did he wash his hands of Jesus?
- God will hold us accountable for our priorities – the things that drive our focus, time, energy and emotions.
 - Be REAL with self. Is there anywhere in your life where your priorities are being driven by the wrong things? This might look like becoming motivated by envy, comparison, perfection, people-pleasing, self-interest, politics, a critical spirit or unhealthy/unrealistic expectations of self, God or others.
 - What is a reasonable first step you can take to refocus or recommit your priorities to God?

Dig Deeper Opportunity Philippians 4:5-9 is the recipe for reasonableness. Read these verses in a few different bible translations for perspective. How are you instructed to overcome anxiety? How are you invited to pursue peace? How are you challenged to manage your thought life? How do you need to cultivate these practices or spiritual disciplines into your life?

3) To help us embrace suffering: The cross reminds us that incredible suffering can be for extraordinary good. A righteous Jesus endured the unimaginable so that we, a sinful people, could find freedom from the unexplainable difficulties of this life.

- What [or who] do you need to trust God with today?
- Shift your eyes to the cross and lay that burden down. Remember what has been accomplished for you and ask God to help you trust that He is both willing and able to carry that. Even though you may not see it, feel it or understand it, the cross serves as your reminder that there are no limits to the depth of God's love for you.



God is Near. Kind Table is the perfect opportunity to invite the women in your life around the table and remember together that God is near – He is with us and for us. Serve as a home hostess or cultivate community by attending an on-campus Kind Table experience on Friday, September 10. Visit cultivate.sc/kindtable to RSVP today!