

Cultivate Discussion Guide

How to Deal with What Scares You March 30 and 31, 2019

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

A NOTE TO LEADERS: To serve the needs of our growing community groups, our **Cultivate Discussion Guide is now available on Mondays by 6pm!** As the group leader, you have the freedom to rephrase and/or choose the questions that meet your group's unique needs. Remember, it's okay if you don't answer every question. The goal of your time together is to have REAL conversation about the topics that are most meaningful to you. If questions remain unanswered, encourage women to work through them as they cultivate God's word on their own throughout the week.

Reflect: Think about this weekend's message. What did you learn? Were you encouraged or surprised? Did something frustrate you or make you feel uncomfortable? Share your thoughts with your group.

Cultivate Truth: Pastor Matt reminded us that spiritual battles are real, but God is bigger, more powerful and more worthy of respect, than anything else we may fear. We need to cultivate a REAL relationship with Him AND His word so that we're equipped with wisdom for every battle and know the difference between truth and lies.

Consider the following verse:

"Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgement." Proverbs 9:10 NLT

#1: Why do you think "fear of the Lord" is the foundation of wisdom? Share a time when the truth of God's word helped you to exercise good judgement?

One of the ways we misuse God's name is by claiming "He led us" to an action or decision. Cultivating God's word into our lives is like consulting an expert. If we seek the wisdom and truth of the Bible, God will guide us - but we can't claim He leads us if we don't follow Him.

#2: How do you consult God? Have an honest conversation about what that practically looks like in your life. Talk about how you read your Bible, how you pray over decisions, any obstacles/challenges you face doing either of those and how you discern [hear] "God's voice" in your life.

Note: Everyone practices these spiritual disciplines differently – no matter how long they've been a believer. This isn't about a right or wrong method or comparing the way we read our bibles and pray. Sharing this is simply a way for you to learn from and encourage one another as you pursue a REAL relationship with God.

Pastor Matt cautioned us to be wise about who we follow - particularly Christian leaders. Not everyone who claims to know God has a real relationship with Him. We need to be mindful that who/what we follow affects how we live, and how we live reflects what we believe.

#3: In our culture of instant access to social media and celebrity, is there anyone or anything you are following that distracts from or even harms your relationship with Christ? What would it take for you to "unfollow" or even change your habits, so you prioritize your relationship with Jesus?

As you consider the following questions, be REAL about both the good and the hard. Remember, God loves you and there is always grace as we grow in our faith. Our vision of being REAL is about continually allowing God to transform our lives, so that we can have an authentic, fulfilling relationship with Him.

#4: People are watching us. Our words and the way we use the name of God reflect our relationship with Him. Are the words you speak, and the way you speak them, drawing people toward Jesus or turning them away?

#5: We should use our words to share God's message, but what we don't say sends a message too. Our choices [hobbies, passions, dating], actions and character also reveal our faith and our heart for Jesus. What are you saying about Jesus with your life?

Cultivate Prayer: Close your time together first praising the powerful name of Jesus. Take a quiet moment to confess any instance of misusing His name and ask God to forgive you. Pray for your needs and for each other. Thank God for His patience, love and grace as we pursue a REAL relationship with Him.

The Cultivate Podcast: Episode 3 of The Cultivate Podcast is live April 1. Listen this week so you're ready to discuss some bonus questions as a group next week!