

Cultivate Discussion Guide

All Things New
April 27 & 28 | Baptism Weekend

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

A few tips for leaders:

- ❖ To help everyone follow along, have them print the Discussion Guide or pull it up on their phone.
- ❖ It's okay if you don't answer every question! Your goal is to have REAL conversation about the topics/questions that are most meaningful to the group.
- ❖ If questions remain unanswered, encourage women to work through them as they cultivate God's word on their own throughout the week.

A Note to Leaders: Did anyone in your group get baptized this weekend? Maybe someone they care about did or they served at their campus baptism? Let them share and celebrate!

Cultivate Truth: Pastor Justin shared the story of Philip, who obeyed the Holy Spirit's direction to minister to an Ethiopian man (Acts 8:26-39), helping him understand the scriptures, sharing the gospel and ultimately baptizing him.

Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit because He knew we'd need a helper too:

"If you [really] love Me, you will keep and obey My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), to be with you forever." John 14:15-16 AMP

The Holy Spirit is the promised presence of God in the life of a Christian. He comes alongside us and points us toward Christ, reminding us of God's promises and truth. He guides, teaches and even convicts us of sin. When we're cultivating a REAL relationship with God, we will hear from the Holy Spirit, and we need to learn to listen and obey.

#1: Describe how you've experienced the Holy Spirit in your life. (*a whisper, nudge, tap, sudden awesome thought, still small voice*)

- **Share a time you believe the Holy Spirit directed or "led" you.**
- **When do you most clearly hear from God?** (*reading His word, during quiet moments, when you're out in nature - this is personal, there's no wrong answer!*)

The Good News: The Ethiopian man experienced what we might call a "hinge moment." One moment he was traveling at his own pace and the next, He encountered the good news of Jesus. For many of us, that is the moment we decided a life apart from Christ was no longer an option.

#2: Share your "hinge moment."

You can add backstory, but don't share your life story. Also, this may not have been a big emotional experience. We find God in small and subtle ways too. This moment is uniquely yours.

Our New Identity: Baptism does not save us, but it is our way of showing others that we have placed our faith in Jesus. It's an outward expression of an inward change and declares our new identity in Christ. In much the same way, faith in Christ does not magically make us perfect. It's through steadfast faith, by grace, we begin the life long journey of becoming more like Him. The longer we follow Jesus, the more His character is revealed in us.

#3: Take turns sharing the attributes of Christ's character you most value. (*loving, compassionate, wise, faithful, a servant - whatever comes to your mind*)

- **As you've followed Jesus, in what ways have you become more like Him?**

This isn't claiming we get it perfect. This is declaring we're intentionally pursuing a life that imitates Christ and giving Him glory for the work He has done in us. Don't let the enemy steal your progress by whispering lies of shame or embarrassment!

- **What Christ-like characteristic would you like to grow in?**

Dig Deeper Challenge: Choose a bible translation you're comfortable with and read Hebrews 11 to reflect on what faith can accomplish. Read on into Hebrews 12 to be encouraged as you run your race of faith.

Our New Family: One of our greatest privileges as members of God's family is sharing Him with others. Jesus has commissioned us as His ambassadors and asked us to go into the world around us and make disciples. Sometimes we think this means we need to share an elaborate testimony or prepare a three-point sermon. Often, people need us to show them Jesus, before we tell them who He is.

#4: Who in your life needs to know Jesus is real?

- **Consider their needs. What would most reach them in the place they're at?**
- **How can YOU be Jesus to them this week? Commit, pray and step out in faith to show this person the love of Christ.**

The Cultivate Podcast: A new episode of The Cultivate Podcast airs May 1. Tune in and be ready to discuss with your group next week!

Cultivate Prayer: Break into the same pairs you did last week. Share what their prayer and encouragement meant to you and any ways you saw God move. Have some REAL conversation about that character attribute of Christ you'd like to grow in. What struggles or obstacles are standing in your way? How can they specifically pray for you? Encourage each other this week - celebrate your victories and pray through your challenges!

Cultivate LIVE: Gather with Sandals Church Women for food, worship and REAL truth from our incredible guest speaker, Lisa Bevere! Choose Friday, May 31 for women and girls 12+ or Saturday, June 1 for a special word just for our Young Adults. Go to cultivate.sc/events for all the details and to purchase your ticket!