

Cultivate Discussion Guide

Run Into the Fire May 11 and 12, 2019

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.
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Reflect: Think about this weekend's message. Did anything stand out to you or take you by surprise? How did God speak to you through the message? Did you feel convicted, challenged or encouraged?

Cultivate Truth: God's word is a lamp to our feet and light to our path. It's meant to lead, guide and instruct us. Sometimes that means God turns the spotlight on us and asks us to take a long, hard look at ourselves.

God sees things we don't and often He uses His word, like a mirror, to show us something that requires our attention. If our Father, out of His great love for us, is pinpointing something we need to see, it serves us well to lean in with a humble heart and willingness to learn. In fact, He promises to bless us when we do:

“For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.” James 1:23-24 NLT

#1: Share what it looks like for you to receive correction and change direction because of God's word.

- **How have you been blessed as a result of your obedience?**

Conflict happens. If our desire is to be a safe place for others, we need to exercise wisdom in how we react and respond. Pastor Claude challenged us that when we assume the worst about others it's like being the judge and jury before there has even been one witness.

Often, we write the story and deliver the verdict failing to remember that our charges have already been dismissed. God has lavished grace on us, yet we forget that others are deserving of the same. God can't be for you and against everyone else.

Read the following verses out loud as a group:

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. James 1:19 NIV

An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. Proverbs 18:15 ESV

Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Hebrews 12:15 NLT

#2: How are you doing with cultivating James 1:19 into your relationships and circumstances? Are you living a quick-slow-slow kind of life?

#3: When faced with relational conflict, is your goal to get the other story or prove your point? How can you be a better listener?

#4: Does the way you handle conflict with others reflect the grace of God you've received? How can you be a grace giver?

In our social media culture, we can be quick to share what offends us and work hard to win others to our side. What's at stake? Is being right worth broken relationships and division among family, friends and followers of Christ?

When we're a safe person, people need to trust us to be wise and kind, honest but humble, willing to handle things quickly - even if it means being the first to admit we're wrong and offer an apology.

#5: Which one are you: the first to apologize or the last word? How is that working for you?

#6: Share a time you had to offer an apology to make things right - even if you didn't think you were wrong.

#7: Are you currently holding onto an offense that is impacting you relationally, emotionally and even physically?

- **Could a REAL conversation with God change your perspective? (see sermon notes: Questions to Ask God...)**
- **Would a REAL conversation with another person move you toward resolution? (see sermon notes: Questions to Ask Others...)**
- **What would it take for you to overlook this offense and move forward?**

Cultivate Prayer: Begin your prayer time by entering a quiet time of confession. Ask God to search you heart and reveal any offense, hurt or misunderstanding that you need to surrender or lay down. Be still and allow His grace to wash over you. Pray together that God will cultivate a humble and gracious heart within you; a heart that both welcomes His grace and freely offers it to others. If God laid something or someone on your heart, keep short accounts and take action as soon as possible.

You're Invited: Cultivate L!VE is right around the corner and we want you to join us for great food, incredible worship and a message from our special guest, international speaker and best-selling author, Lisa Bevere. Women and girls 12+, join us on Friday, May 31 at Hunter Park. If you're a woman between 18-30, join us Saturday, June 1 at Palm Avenue, for a special conversation just for young adults. Registration is required! Go to cultivate.sc/events to buy your ticket now – just \$25 or \$15 for students.