

# Cultivate Discussion Guide

## What is the Gospel? May 25 and 26, 2019

If you missed this weekend's message, view it at [cultivate.sc/discussion](http://cultivate.sc/discussion)

### NEW tips for leaders:

- Take time to prepare for group time. Read through the questions and create a game plan, choosing the questions you believe will allow for REAL conversation.
  - You're free to rephrase, focus in or draw out the topics/questions that you believe are most meaningful. It's okay if you don't answer every question, if you're digging deep into a few.
  - Close in prayer – using our prompt or your own. The goal is to live out what we're learning and we ALL need Jesus to help us do that!
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- 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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**Reflect:** Think about this weekend's message. Was there a moment, word or verse that stood out to you? Did God speak to you through the message? How did you feel convicted, challenged or encouraged?

**Cultivate Truth:** As we embark on our new series through Galatians, Pastor Matt encouraged us that this book is the Christians defense in a day when the world wants to change the gospel to fit popular culture. He promised that by the end, we would be able to accurately explain what it means to be a Christian and why Jesus - and only Jesus - is the way, truth and life.

### #1: Explain, in your own words, what it means to be a Christian.

In today's culture, we're faced with so many opinions, many of which, though wrong, sound right and even gain wide popularity. Pastor Matt challenged us to STOP worrying about what other people think and START caring about what Jesus thinks.

The apostle Paul is a great example of standing firm in his conviction and delivering the gospel, regardless of what anyone else thought. Read the following verses:

My authority for writing to you does not come from any popular vote of the people, nor does it come through the appointment of some human higher-up. It comes directly from Jesus the Messiah and God the Father, who raised him from the dead. Galatians 1:2 MSG

Do you think I speak this strongly in order to manipulate crowds? Or curry favor with God? Or get popular applause? If my goal was popularity, I wouldn't bother being Christ's slave. Galatians 1:10 MSG

### #2: Are you ever tempted to compromise your faith for a more popular opinion or to gain approval from others?

- **Where do you find the most pressure to compromise comes from?** (e.g.: social media, friends/family, people pleasing, personal insecurity, not knowing how to defend your faith, etc.)

### #3: What would it look like for you to make pleasing God your top priority?

- **Be specific. "I need to stop \_\_\_\_\_ and instead \_\_\_\_\_."**

Fake news can destroy lives and more so, diminish the gospel of grace Jesus gave His life for. When we forget about the power of grace - in our own life or the life of others - we are essentially embracing a fake gospel.

**#4: What are some ways, as Christians, we can avoid falling prey to fake news?**

**#5: Another common term for fake news is gossip. When we insert our version of truth into someone else's story, we're robbing them of grace and often, spreading lies. In the face of gossip, what are some ways we can choose grace instead?**

The gospel is complete and unchanging, yet so many people are tempted to pick and choose what they believe. They live what works for them and selectively ignore what doesn't, assuming they're the exception to God's instruction. We DO NOT get to write our own version of truth and the Bible is very clear about the consequences for preaching and living a false gospel:

Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. Galatians 1:8 NLT

**#6: Do you know someone who is attempting to write their own version of truth? How have you seen that false gospel impact their life?**

**#7: Pastor Matt spelled out that God's "curse" translates to being damned to hell. Are you scared enough of hell to try and save others from it?**

- **If not, what's holding you back?**
- **What are some practical steps you can take to be more confident sharing the good news?**

Have a REAL conversation about this. As followers of Christ, we have the privilege to share Him with others and if you feel shy, intimidated or unequipped, talk through that with your group so you can grow in this area.

**Pastor Matt's Challenge:** Memorize Galatians 2:20 this week and share it with someone!

**Cultivate Prayer:** The gospel should change us - the way we think, act, speak and live. Jesus came to save us and if we're committed to a REAL relationship with Him, He's saving us from ourselves every single day.

**#8: What do you need Jesus to save you from today?**

- **Lean into this and be REAL with self.** Are you struggling with unbelief, a negative attitude or critical spirit? Is your thought life a battle leading to anxiety or worry? Maybe you need the gospel of grace to wash over sin, brokenness or illness?
- **Bow your head, close your eyes and enter into a time of prayer. Ask Jesus to change you in the way you most need today.**

**Cultivate LIVE is THIS WEEK:** We're welcoming special guest, international speaker and best-selling author, Lisa Bevere. Lisa is a powerful teacher, committed to delivering the REAL truth of God's word in a world full of opinions. Join us for an incredible night of teaching, plus great food, amazing worship and our Cultivate community of KIND women. Choose between Friday, May 31 or our Young Adult Gathering on Saturday, June 1. Register today at [cultivate.sc/events](http://cultivate.sc/events).