

Cultivate Discussion Guide

+ Bonus: Summer Book Club Questions

Why I Need to Be Part of a Church July 27 and 28, 2019

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

Tips for leaders:

- Prepare for your group. Your goal is to choose the questions that will lead your group into REAL conversation about the topics most meaningful to you. It's okay if you don't answer them all!
 - 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: What does "church" mean to you? Does it feel like home and family? If not, why? Have you experienced disappointment either in the Church (global) or the church (personal) and how have you overcome [or are you overcoming] that to maintain your relationship with Jesus?

Read Hebrews 10:25 TPT:

"This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other! In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning."

#1: If someone asked why you're in a community group, what would you say?

#2: Share some examples of how community has helped you stay REAL with yourself, God or others?

#3: Are you consistently investing AND contributing to the work of community—meeting together to encourage each other not to give up?

- **If yes - how are you seeing the return on your investment?**
- **If no - WHAT needs to change to increase your commitment and HOW will you do that?**

Read 2 Corinthians 3:3 MSG:

"Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God's living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives—and we publish it." 2 Corinthians 3:3 MSG

#3: You are a living, breathing letter declaring the benefits of Jesus and the Church.

- **When others talk, watch, interact, or engage with you, what message are they getting about God's family? Do you read as inviting and safe?**
- **If not, what needs to change in your life so that others not only want to be with you, but meet your spiritual family. Be specific. Be REAL.**

Note: We ALL have things/people/issues that annoy us, but 2 Corinthians 3:3 is a great reminder about the power of the message we publish with our lives!

Read Galatians 6:9-10 MSG:

“So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.”

Serving the family of God is not about doing one more thing, but about the one thing we can do. We will harvest what we plant and God wants us to be cheerful, willing servants—not obligated, exhausted slaves.

#4. How are you serving the family of God? What blessings have you experienced?

- If you’re not serving now, what are you willing to give—this could be time, talents or resources? Will you pursue the opportunity that is right for you and help?

Dig Deeper Challenge: Serving others could be as simple as replicating what you experience in REAL community for others. Think practically and act intentionally this week—*how can you share the blessings of community you’ve experienced with those around you?*

Pastor Matt shared three things that challenge our faith:

1. Sinful desires
2. Spiritual ignorance
3. Spiritual attack

#5: Which of these has been or currently is the biggest battle for you? Explain why.

#6: How can your spiritual family encourage you to not give up?

Cultivate Prayer: Begin with a time of thanks - for our church, for your community and for the family - biological or spiritual - God has blessed you with. Ask Him to show you how to intentionally invest in strengthening and deepening those connections. Ask Him to show you opportunities to serve others whether with your time, talents or resources.

Summer Book Club

Week 5 Discussion Questions Chapters 9-10

Answer the following questions, adding your own personal insight, favorite passages and REAL conversation:

#1: Lisa says, “We can choose to allow shame to separate us from God or to turn from the darkness and allow his light and love to bond us in a deeper manner to our Creator.” (pg. 182) How has your bond with Jesus removed your shame and empowered you to live in freedom and truth?

#2: After reading Adamant Transformation, in what areas of your life do you need God to take you by the hand and lead you into radical change?

#3: In your own words, what is holiness?

#4: As you read the ways we should be living holy (pgs. 210-219), in which ways do you desire to have more holiness in your life?

Prepare for our final week of Adamant by reading Chapter 11.