

Cultivate Discussion Guide

The Cure to Loneliness - God is With You When You Need Him Most August 24 and 25, 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: Pastor Matt shared stats this weekend which report that the average American cannot list the names of five people they'd call when they need help, support or encouragement. **Who do you call when you need help? What about them makes them "your people?"**

Read the following verses:

"Your threat means nothing to us. If you throw us in the fire, the God we serve can rescue us from your roaring furnace and anything else you might cook up, O king. But even if he doesn't, it wouldn't make a bit of difference, O king. We still wouldn't serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up." Daniel 3:16-18
MSG

"Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner. 1 Peter 4:12-13
MSG

#1: What is your initial reaction when trials come - to assume God isn't on the job OR to be glad in the thick of it?

#2: Share a time you felt like you were in the furnace - facing a physical trial, emotional stress, relational conflict, anxiety, loss, etc...

#3: How did you seek God (try to find Him) in the fire?

#4: Did God help the way you expected - or did you want a different outcome?

#5: In the face of fire, are you ever tempted to turn to other things (work, relationships, entertainment, etc.) to avoid seeking God? Why do you think that's your go-to?

#6: Looking back at your trial - or maybe looking into a present trial - can you categorize the fire as one of the following:

- Foolish fire: When we burn ourselves by repeated mistakes.
- Sinful fire: Our words and actions that = fire!
- Natural fire: Life is hard, trials come, but God is good.
- Supernatural fire: Satan working to deceive and distract.

#7: Share some ways God revealed Himself to you through His Spirit, His Word and His people. What did you learn or how did you grow as a result?

#8: Do you feel equipped to endure and/or extinguish the fires in your life? How can your group support, encourage or even challenge you?

Cultivate Prayer: No matter the fire, Jesus is with us now and forever. Call out to him for what you need today - whether you're in the heat of the furnace, watching someone you love endure the fire or even enjoying cooler days. Ask Him to refine you through this time and draw you closer to Him and His glory.

We're Here to Help: If you or someone in your group is facing a fiery trial, we're here to help. Reach out to our Soul Care Team at move.sc/help for council, support and prayer.

It's Time to Cultivate KIND Tables! We're setting a KIND table and EVERY woman is invited! Launching Friday, September 27, KIND table is a unique, one night experience that will empower YOU to serve as an ambassador of kindness, setting a table for the women in your community AND making room at the table for even more women to taste and see what kindness can do. Go to cultivate.sc/kindtable for all the details on how you can host a KIND table AND to enter our hostess GIVEAWAY.