

Cultivate Discussion Guide

+ Bonus: 60 Days to a Better Me Reflect & Respond

MOTIVATED ... To Live for God by Following His Word
January 25 and 26, 2020

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

Hey, Leaders! A few reminders as you pray and prepare for group...

- Choose the questions that are most meaningful to you and will lead your group into REAL conversation.
- It's okay if you don't answer every question or if you want to incorporate questions from the weekly sermon notes.
- Encourage your group to cultivate God's word on their own by reflecting on the questions you don't cover in group **AND taking part in the 60 Days to a Better Me study on the Sandals Church app!**

Cultivate Truth: Pastor Matt challenged us that biblical ignorance can misdirect our lives. People claim to "know God" but they don't know His word and so...they're lost.

"You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do." James 1:22-25 CEB

#1: Reflect on the verse above. Are you a hearer *and* a doer? Do you cultivate God's word into your life SO THAT you can put it into practice, or do you walk away forgetting, even ignoring what it has revealed?

- **If you're hearing and doing, what blessings have you seen as a result?**
- **If not, share one thing you want to do in response to God's word. How can your group or someone you trust support you or hold you accountable?**

It's never too late to follow God.

"So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed..." Genesis 12:4 NLT

Disobedience is more than refusing to go where God sends us or do what He instructs. It can also be placing our own conditions on the move rather than trusting that God knows exactly where we need to end up.

#2: Share a way God is asking (or has asked) you to move – this could be physical movement or even spiritual growth, relational change or emotional transformation?

- **What was your first response - immediate obedience or chronic hesitation?**
- **What happened as a result?**
- **What did you learn about yourself? About God?**

Obedience to God's word leads you into God's presence.

Abram first had to obey God's instruction sight unseen and ... "then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." Geneses 12:7 NLT

#3: Pastor Matt said, "we give partial obedience and expect full blessing."

- **How have you experienced this to be true in your life?**
- **What needs to happen to line up your actions with your expectations?**

Cultivate Prayer: We can spend so much time dwelling on God's "no" that we forget to celebrate His "yes." Praise God right now for a "yes" you've experienced or even for His wisdom in a well-placed "no." Ask Him for the courage and strength to trust Him, even when it's hard or you can't see where He's taking you. Share how you need the support of your group/friends/community as you purpose to follow God and obey His word.

60 Days to a Better Me

Reflect & Respond

It's Week 2 of the 60 Days to a Better Me bible reading plan and we're growing spiritually wise by cultivating God's word into our lives. Whether you're reflecting on your own progress or having REAL conversation in community, share **what** you're learning and **how** you're changing as a result of God's word.

- #1: Share how it felt to cultivate God's word this week. Was it easy or hard? Did you face any obstacles or overcome any challenges?**
- #2: As you engaged in the REAL study method, what was one theme from your reading that most stood out to you? Why?**
- #3: What results are you seeing in your life as you cultivate or "live out" what you're learning? This could include how you're responding to or experiencing God's presence as you spend time with Him.**