

Cultivate Discussion Guide

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

NON-NEGOTIABLES ... How to Find True Love February 15 and 16, 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!*

Group Health Check: If you missed our Group Health Check, find it in last week's discussion guide. If you engaged in REAL conversation about your group health last week, what has happened since? Is there more to talk about? Healthy community and spiritual growth are vital in our lives as believers, but these are not easy pursuits. We face an enemy who wants us divided in chaos, not unified in truth. DO NOT let him have the upper hand! Work toward healthy next steps, personally AND relationally [see Romans 12 below].

Accept that not all love is... real, good or the same.

"Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other." Romans 12:9-10 NLT

- #1: Share a few things on your list of non-negotiables for love. This could be in any present relationship – romantic, family or friend – or a relationship you hope for.**
- #2: How do you think your list measures up to God's desires for you in that love? In other words... are you undervaluing or overestimating REAL love?**
- #3: Whether you put your non-negotiables in writing for the first time or not – have you ever strayed from your list? This could be positive (putting other's needs first) or negative (compromise, sin).**
 - Try to identify why – e.g. willing compromise, healthy boundaries OR fear, lack of self-worth, not being REAL with self, God or others.
 - What did this "straying" process teach you about yourself? About God?

Only God's love can lead to true love.

"But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people." 2 Timothy 3:1-5 ESV

- #4: Reflect on Paul's words above. Do you struggle with loving [accepting, allowing, condoning] the wrong things in the wrong way OR people who do?**
 - How has that impacted your ability or willingness to express your faith?

Note: Be REAL. If self-awareness is not your strong suit, ask someone you trust to speak into this. This is a worthy exercise SO THAT you are NOT living a life that gives "the appearance of godliness, but denies its power."

Cultivate Prayer: To know agape [pure, perfect, selfless] love, we must know God AND make knowing Him a priority. Is there anything in your life that is taking the place of that first love? Pray – which could include confession – asking God to help you seek Him first and live in a way that reflects the value of His love. Remember, God doesn't love you because of what you have or have not done, but because of who He is. If you seek Him earnestly, you will be met with love.

60 Days to a Better Me
Reflect & Respond

We're in Week 5 of the 60 Days to a Better Me bible reading plan! Time flies when you're building healthy habits, right? Don't give up! Whether you're reflecting on your own progress or having REAL conversation in community, share **what** you're learning and **how** you're changing.

- #1: We're covered a lot of ground in our reading. What most stood out to you – whether you were encouraged, challenged, surprised or even confused?**

- #2: Many people claim the bible is outdated and irrelevant. How have you been able to relate what you're reading to your life, circumstances and experiences?**