

Cultivate Discussion Guide
+ Bonus **60 Days to a Better Me Reflect & Respond**

Non-Negotiables | Love Needs Friendship
March 7 and 8, 2020

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

Hey, Leaders! A few reminders as you 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.

Reflect: At the beginning of our Non-Negotiables series, you shared your list of non-negotiables in love – whether romantic, family or friendship. Now that we're a few weeks in, has your list changed at all? What have you learned that has adjusted your perspective?

Love needs friendship, but the quality of our friendships can be affected by:

- the **pace** of our lives – busy lifestyles that don't leave time to cultivate REAL friendship
- what we **prize** – whether we view friendship as necessary and vital over being alone
- our **phones** – the way we relate from behind a screen

#1: Do any of the above impact the quality of your friendships? Share how.

#2: We need to be the kind of friend we want. What are your expectations of friendship – both for yourself and others?

- **If you're consistently disappointed in friendship, do you need to adjust your expectations?**
- **If you enjoy healthy friendship, how have you managed your expectations so you're the kind of friend you want?**

A REAL friend is:

- present even when they get nothing in return
- perceptive, not emotionally disconnected
- prescribes what is good.

#3: Which of the above is most valuable to you in friendship? Explain why. Consider your personality, personal needs or even past experiences in friendship.

#4: You may find different people serve different roles in your life, but are you missing any of the above in your friendships? Why do think that is – e.g. you're not open to it, don't seek it out, didn't realize it was important, etc.?

Jesus is the friend we need SO THAT we can become the kind of friend we want.

“There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.” John 15:13-14 NLT

#5: Considering everything we learned this week, what are some things YOU need do to cultivate a healthy, loving relationship with:

- a) someone important in your life**
- b) with Jesus – reflect on how you follow & obey.**

Cultivate Prayer: Thank God for the friendships in your life you value. Ask Him to help you cultivate those aspects of healthy friendship you might be lacking in your life – whether that means helping you grow into the friend you want, having the courage to reach out in friendship or even to provide those friends you long for.

60 Days to a Better Me

Reflect & Respond

We're headed into Week 8 of the 60 Days to a Better Me bible reading plan. That's over halfway to meeting our goal! 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: Throughout our reading, but particularly last week, we saw God's judgement and exile of His chosen people – the Israelites – as they struggled to obey, worshipped idols and abandoned their relationship with God in favor of self, popular opinion and culture.

- **Do you see yourself in the Israelites? What about the world around you?**
- **How do you respond when you read of God's anger and judgement?**
- **What do you believe God's heart was for His people?**

#2: Open Day 33 – The Promise of a Messiah. What aspects of Jesus' character have you experienced to be true in your life?