

*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](http://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.

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**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

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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?**