

Cultivating Daily Reflection

Signs: How Will Jesus Return? April 18 & 19, 2020

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

A Note from the Cultivate Team: Although we are navigating uncertain times, we continue to serve a certain God. Now, more than ever, we need to turn our hearts and minds toward Him. In order to best support you, we've transitioned our weekly discussion guide into a daily reflection guide – for women, by women SO THAT you can draw near to Jesus. Whether you choose to find creative and safe ways to share your thoughts in community or use this as a personal exercise, we encourage you to daily reflect, respond and pray.

Day 1 – Cultivate Wholeness: With so much chaos and noise in our world right now, it's increasingly important for us to remember the Good News that because Jesus is alive, He is with us – beside us, before us and all around us. While our plans have certainly changed, God's plans for our lives have not. He is still at work and He is still preparing us, transforming us and doing beautiful things. The signs are all around.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10 ESV

Get away someplace quiet with God. Reflect on the beautiful things He is doing around you. What about within you – how is God meeting you where you are? What are you learning in this season that could prepare you for whatever comes in the next? How is He transforming your heart, attitude or perspective or how do you need Him to? Praise Him for the beauty you see and if you can't see it, ask Him to help you STOP looking at the wrong things and START looking at Him.

Jesus' return will be ... a physical reality, a public spectacle and it will be at the perfect moment.

Day 2: Pastor Matt encouraged us that the signs of end times shouldn't instill fear, but stir in us a desire to follow, listen and obey SO THAT we're ready when Jesus comes. Reflect on this weekend's message – how did it encourage, challenge or convict you? Are you longing for Jesus' return or are there unresolved issues or unconfessed sin you need to address? Ask God for what you most need so that YOU can look forward to His return - whether that's forgiveness, grace, hope, healing, strength, joy, courage, etc.

Day 3: Sheltering at home has upended our habits, routines and schedules. Along with it, our connection to the people, community and church we care about. Grieving loss & change is normal and so is seeking support along the way. Do a check-up today and be REAL with self, God and others. Pay attention to your physical, emotional, spiritual and relational signs. What do you need? What do you need to do? Take care of yourself, talk to God and reach out to others to ask for help OR to offer to help them.

Day 4: Psalm 23 is likely familiar to you, but look it up and read it in [The Passion Translation \(TPT\)](#) today. As you read, highlight the words, expressions or emotions that most stand out to you. How do these words meet you today? Praying scripture is a beautiful way to cultivate God's word into our lives. Pray verses 4-6 back to God, praising Him for who He is and what He is able to do for you.

Day 5: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:7-8

In the days and weeks after His resurrection, Jesus kept showing up because He needed His disciples to keep believing. As His disciples, Jesus needs us to run our race – to keep believing, to keep living out our faith and to keep telling others about Him until that perfect moment of His return. What do you need to keep doing or start doing more – believing, living out your faith, sharing Jesus? What are some practical next steps to accomplish that? Pray asking God to equip you with wisdom and direction to run your unique race!