

# Cultivate Reflection Guide

## New Voices: Elevate Your Peace – Tim Timberlake Week of July 12, 2020

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at [cultivate.sc/discussion](http://cultivate.sc/discussion)

Who you listen to matters. This summer, Pastor Matt has invited friends and fellow pastors to lend their voices and share their perspectives. As we begin this new series and many community groups resume meeting, we've updated our reflection guide to include opportunities for you to cultivate God's word in community and/or continue to respond through daily personal reflection. The choice is yours!

**1. Noteworthy:** What most stood out to you from this weekend's message? Maybe a quote that resonated, a word you want to remember or that thing you're still thinking about. These noteworthy moments are often the Holy Spirit telling us to pay attention. Take a few moments to linger here and ask God to show you what He wants you to learn or even what He wants you to do.

“When the word preached to me becomes part of me, then I am transformed.” *Tim Timberlake*

**2. Cultivate Wholeness:** No matter how “good” we think we're doing, none of us are immune to the influence of sin. It creeps in and comes out through our thoughts, actions and words. The only remedy is Jesus and our access to boldly come, quickly confess and freely exchange our sin for His faithful forgiveness. To cultivate whole lives, we need to keep short accounts with God, not allowing sin to steal or destroy the peace He promises.

<sup>8</sup>If we boast that we have no sin, we're only fooling ourselves and are strangers to the truth. <sup>9</sup>But if we freely admit our sins *when his light uncovers them*, he will be faithful to forgive us every time. God is just to forgive us our sins *because of Christ*, and he will continue to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9 TPT

Give God an all-access pass to search your heart and pinpoint any sin that is keeping you from experiencing His peace. Maybe you already know what it is or perhaps you're wrestling with something more subtle – pride, jealousy, anger, hate, bitterness, resentment, greed, gossip... and their byproducts. Boldly come, quickly confess and ask God to release you from sin's power through His forgiveness and give you peace.

**Cultivate Community:** Invite your community group or someone you trust into your pursuit of peace. Share your triggers, your struggles and your wins. Give them permission to encourage and hold you accountable SO THAT you can continue to walk forward in the peace and freedom of God's forgiveness.

**3. Read Philippians 4:6-9.** If we want to experience REAL peace, we must give up the right to try and understand everything. It's only when we walk away from the things we're trying to micromanage that we can operate in the peace God has for us. To do that we need to trust God.

- Is there anything you're working so hard to understand that you're forgetting to trust God?
- What does this verse encourage you to put into practice to hand that burden over to God? What are some ways you could practically do that?
- Make a commitment to actively and intentionally do what you can and then trust God with what you can't. Practice doesn't mean you'll get it perfect, but it will bring you closer to God and His peace.

**4. Praiseworthy:** Confession of sin, unwavering trust and surrendering control are #goals for a follower of Christ, however they are by no means easy to achieve. But God... can accomplish more than we ask or imagine is possible through His strength at work in us. *Read Ephesians 3:14-21* and reflect on Paul's prayer. Let the width, length, height and depth of God's love wash over you and respond to Him with praise.

**5. Calming the storm:** Storms happen and while we can't always change the circumstances, we can control how we respond. Tim challenged us to pull other people into our peace, rather than let them pull us into their storm. Reflect and consider *who* you listen to, *what* influences you and *how* that affects you – spiritually, emotionally, relationally.

- Is there anyone or anything in your life that is pulling you into a storm – creating confusion, causing distraction or even bringing brokenness.
- What could YOU do to pursue peace? Pray, asking God for wisdom, direction and if He so leads, opportunity to bring about peace.