

Cultivate Reflection Guide

Pivot: How to Change When You Don't Want To Week of September 20, 2020 – The Great Exchange

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

Whether we want it or not, change happens. The more we cling to the way things have always been, the more miserable we can be. What if God wants to use change to change YOU? Use our weekly reflection guide, along with the weekend message, to respond in community and/or through daily personal study. *Your goal is not to get through the content, but to get the content through you SO THAT you grow as you cultivate God's word into your life.*

1. Noteworthy: At the start of our Pivot series you reflected on your overall perspective on change. Now that we've reached the end of our series, what have you learned about yourself, about God? How have you grown in your perspective on change? How have you seen the benefits of that growth in your life?

2. Cultivate Wholeness: Sometimes God asks us to change before we know the reason why. Working toward that change sight unseen is an exercise in faith that may seem foolish to the world, but for us as followers of Christ, it's the definition of hope. If we want to pursue whole lives, we trust God to show us how to become the best versions of ourselves and then we believe Him for the rewards we can't yet see.

“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.”
Hebrews 10:23 NLT

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”
Jeremiah 29:11-13 NLT

While we can't see what God is doing, we can trust Him to keep His promises to us and for our good. What is a change you are hoping for personally, spiritually or relationally? How have you experienced God's wisdom, direction or encouragement in pursuing that change?

If your hope is wavering, ask God to refresh your faith and renew your strength. Invite Him to show you any change that needs to happen in you SO THAT you can be a part of His good plans for you. As you continue to seek Him, ask God to help you pivot your hope from the empty promises of the world to the eternal promises of God.

Dig Deeper: Your determination to hope will not return void. *Read Hebrews 11* – the Hall of Faith – and be encouraged by those who believed in what they could not see.

3. Lasting or wasting? *Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.* We can be our own worst enemy, robbing ourselves of eternal treasure by failing to reinvest our resources in the things of God. What do you consider your most precious resource (e.g., time, talent, energy, money, possessions, etc.)? Take inventory of how you spend that resource – is it lasting or wasting? What could pivot in your “spending” so that you are building God's work, not just your own? Ask God for the opportunity to re-invest in His kingdom, then pursue wise spending.

4. Praiseworthy: We've lived through a year of uncertainty that has left many of us feeling powerless. But God remains certain and wholly powerful. Turn to Psalm 33 and read the verses aloud. Let God's purpose, power and strength fill your heart and mind. Invite His Spirit to refresh yours and remind you that not only is God watching over all creation, but He is watching over you. He is your hope, help and shield.

5. Faith over culture: Culture makes a lot of demands of us, but only faith in Jesus offers an eternal reward. While it can feel difficult to choose what God wants over what everyone else is doing, faith is worth the fight. Is there an area of your life where you're battling culture over Christianity? This could even be an area you're feeling comfortable, complacent or tempted to compromise. Be REAL with God – confess that battle and ask Him to fight for you, with you. Pray, asking God to help you cultivate the spiritual discipline of faith into your life SO THAT you can store up treasure in heaven.

Cultivate Community: If you're struggling to choose faith over culture, be REAL with others. Invite your community or someone you trust to walk alongside you and help you fight for faith.