

Cultivate Reflection Guide

New Series – ELECTION Week of September 27, 2020 – Is God in Control?

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

When the political stakes are high, it's hard to know who to follow and what to believe. Join us as we reflect, respond and pray through our "Election" series and together learn to see politics through the eyes of God.

Update: Beginning October 1 and over the next 6 weeks, many Cultivate groups are participating in our fall bible study. You can join us at cultivate.sc/fall20. With our study in mind, we're modifying the weekly reflection guide so that, if you choose, you can continue to respond to the weekend message – either in community or through personal reflection – and still have capacity to enjoy the full experience of our bible study. The choice is yours!

Noteworthy: Pastor Matt kicked off our new series with a question to us all: *have you lost hope in God's ability to bring change?* Linger here for a moment and reflect on where you're placing your hope for the future.

Cultivate Wholeness: No matter who is in charge, God is always in control. God's power and authority is something most believers easily acknowledge, yet so many of us still live in a constant battle for control. Rather than trust and seek, we wrestle and struggle. If we want to cultivate a whole life, we need to learn to let go and let God.

"Lord God, you created heaven and earth by your great power and outstretched arm;
nothing is too hard for you!" Jeremiah 32:17 CEB

Is there any area in your life where you are wrestling for control? This could be the battle to gain more control or the battle to let go. Consider your personal life (habits, actions, choices), but also your spiritual growth, emotional health and your relationships. **Now, be REAL with...**

- **Self:** Why do you need control? How is the struggle for control impacting you personally, spiritually, emotionally or relationally? Is it leading to a healthier and more whole life or not?
- **God:** You may not be ready or even able to let go, but what would it look like to loosen your grip and trust God? Pray Jeremiah 32:17 and ask God to help you believe that nothing is too hard for Him. Be intentional this week about releasing, trusting and believing. Remember, even slow and steady steps count.
- **Others:** The struggle for control is REAL. Share your commitment to release control with someone you trust SO THAT when you're grip tightens again, they can help you remember to let go and let God.

Read Luke 6:46: No matter what everyone else is doing, God calls us to obey. There are a lot of voices in our world right now and not all of them are committed to truth. We can't call Jesus our King then follow the crowd. Take inventory of the voices you let into your heart, mind and life and then, ask yourself if they help you follow God or draw you further away. It takes courage to follow God – choose who/what needs to go, then make the cut SO THAT you are not only following God but your life points others toward Him.

Pause to Praise: No matter how alone we feel, God is ALWAYS with us. No matter what we are facing or feeling, we can find the presence of God in the power of His word. Read Psalm 71 and let God be your rock, fortress, strength and protection. Praise Him for being your help, hope and comfort. Pray back the promises you most need today, drawing near to God as He draws near to you.