

Cultivate Reflection Guide

ELECTION

Week of October 11, 2020 – Whose Side is God On?

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: Over the next 6 weeks, many Cultivate groups are participating in our fall bible study. With our study in mind, we're modifying the weekly reflection guide so that, if you choose, you can continue to respond to our weekend series and still have capacity to enjoy the full experience of our bible study. Whether in community or through personal reflection, simply **choose one** of the following questions to live out what we're learning on the weekends.

1. Choose God More. While God won't force anyone to come to Him, He wants us all to choose Him. If we claim to be children of God and followers of Jesus, then we not only need to be on His side, but we need to choose Him with our whole life – heart, soul, strength and mind.

"My beloved friends, imitate my walk with God and follow all those who walk according to the way of life we modeled before you. For there are many who live by different standards. As I've warned you many times (I weep as I write these words), they are enemies of the cross of the Anointed One and doom awaits them. Their god has possessed them and made them mute. Their boast is in their shameful lifestyles and their minds are in the dirt. But we are a colony of heaven on earth as we cling tightly to our life-giver, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:17-20 TPT

Are you choosing God with your heart, passions, energy and thoughts? Are you modeling your life after the standards of truth established in His word or are there "different standards" you're following? Be REAL about your desires, habits, time and thought life. Identify one area where you want to choose God more. Pray and commit to action toward that choice, clinging to Jesus, your life-giver.

2. The Higher Way. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8 NLT

What is something you're thinking about, praying for, waiting on or fighting against? Are you expecting God to be on your side or are you asking Him to show you His? What would it look like for you to surrender your ideas of the "right" outcome and invite God to show you His way? Be REAL with God about any doubts, struggles, fears or resistance you might be facing. Ask God to change your perspective and help you trust His way – the higher way.

3. Choose God's side by choosing:

- **To worship him** – Joshua 24:14 NLT
- **An attitude of humility** – Philippians 2:3-4 NLT
- **To be obedient to God's** commands – Hebrews 12:14 NLT

Which one of these do you need to cultivate into your life? Reflect on the noted verse. Consider that this may not be your version/idea of worship, humility or obedience, but rather God's. That means change in this area may involve confession of your way and prayer for wisdom to do it God's way. Ask God to show you how to pursue His way – whether that be through personal surrender, making relational amends, seeking spiritual growth or connecting with wise community to advise and encourage you.