

Cultivate Reflection Guide

ELECTION

Week of October 18, 2020 – Where is God in Conflict?

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. Noteworthy: We're four weeks into our Election series, designed to help us see politics through the eyes of God. Reflect for a few moments on what you are learning and how you are growing? Is there anything you are seeing differently than you did before? To what do you attribute that change in your perspective?

2. God Listens: God is always working – in us, through us and around us – present in what we can't yet see. Often that means we wait – on His timing, on His preparation, on His plans. While that is not easy, we don't have to stand still in the process. God invites us to share our hearts, offer Him our hopes and engage in the work of becoming who He has created us to be.

"This is the confidence that we have in our relationship with God: If we ask for anything in agreement with his will, he listens to us. If we know that he listens to whatever we ask, we know that we have received what we asked from him." 1 John 5:14-15 CEB

What is something you're hoping for today? Is there a dream or desire you're longing for? Do you have a gift you want God to grow within you? Maybe there's something you're struggling to believe is still possible? God already knows, but He delights in hearing from you and He listens. Share your heart with God. Now pray, asking God to help you align your desire to His will – to trust, obey and pursue His way over your own SO THAT you are not just receiving what you ask for, but you are becoming who He has created you to be.

Cultivate Community: Share your hope, desire or dream with someone you trust. Invite them to share the possibility that they see in you and the ways they think you can grow to achieve that.

3. A Sign of Surrender: Pastor Matt challenged us that God is present in what's kept secret and in what we intentionally hide. He is working for truth in lies. What do we need to do? Surrender anything that is keeping us from a REAL relationship with Him.

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If you truly want to follow me, you should at once completely reject and disown your own life. And you must be willing to share my cross and experience it as your own, as you continually surrender to my ways." Matthew 16:24 TPT

Is there anything you're hiding? Are you struggling with a secret? This could be something you're doing that you shouldn't (a sin of commission) or something you should be doing and you're not (a sin of omission). This might even be a lie of offense, shame or condemnation the enemy is using to deceive you.

What would it look like for you to surrender – to confess anything that is drawing you away from an intimate, honest and authentic relationship with God? Invite God to search your heart and show you where you need freedom. Ask God to forgive you and give you the courage to pursue Him with your whole life.

Dig Deeper: This weekend we learned how God used Rahab's surrender to protect His people (Joshua 2:15-21). While REAL change begins with us, it has the potential to impact generations to come. *Read Matthew 1:1-6* to see the results of Rahab's obedience.