

Cultivate Reflection Guide

ELECTION

Week of October 25, 2020 – How to Fight for What You Believe In

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 reflections to live out what we're learning on the weekends.

1. Noteworthy: How do you fight for what you believe in? What from this weekend's message either encouraged you to continue what you're doing or challenged you to change your practice & perspective?

2. The Real Enemy: Pastor Matt challenged us to remember that we don't just have a personal God who loves us, we have a personal enemy who hates us. Too often, rather than rely on Jesus for protection, we over-estimate our ability to fight the devil and we leave ourselves vulnerable to his attack.

"Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith." 1 Peter 5:8-9 MSG

"Surrender to God. Stand up to the devil and resist him and he will turn and run away from you." James 4:7 TPT

- What is an area of vulnerability for you (e.g. compromise, isolation, bitterness, complacency, fear, etc.)?
- Do you have a plan to protect yourself from the enemy? Consider not only how YOU need to keep a firm grip on faith, but how to keep your guard up in your family, marriage, friendships, workplace, school, etc. What practical things can you do to stand up for faith, resist the devil and seek God?
- As you consider the weapons of God – worship, His word, and silence – which of these do you need to cultivate into your life through obedience to God?

Call out to God. Tell Him where you need His strength, courage and protection. There is power in the name of Jesus and you do not need to fight this battle alone. He is with you!

Cultivate Community: If you identified a vulnerability in your life, share it with someone your trust or your community. Develop a plan to fight against it that includes their accountability and encouragement.

3. Representing Jesus: There are a lot of voices in our lives. There is power and responsibility in both what we say and who we listen to. While things can sound right, they can still be wrong. Words can seem harmless and still have lasting effects. Opinions can appear valid, but still be misleading.

"Walk in the wisdom of God as you live before the unbelievers, and make it your duty to make him known. Let every word you speak be drenched with grace and tempered with truth and clarity. For then you will be prepared to give a respectful answer to anyone who asks about your faith." Colossians 4:5-6 TPT

- Does what you say (speak, write, share) represent Jesus? Does it reflect a wisdom, truth, clarity and respect that draws people closer SO THAT you can share Jesus?
- Do the voices you listen to sound like Jesus? Do they impart wisdom, truth, clarity and respect that brings you closer to Jesus SO THAT He can speak into your life?
- What needs to change in what you say, how you say it and/or the voices you allow into your life?

Invite the Holy Spirit to help you walk in wisdom and show you when you need to silence your voice or when you need to quiet the voices around you so that you are first seeking God. Be ready to obey when He speaks!