

Cultivate Reflection Guide

ELECTION

Week of November 1, 2020 – How to Prepare for Political Change

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. Cultivate Trust: If you find yourself worried and anxious over election week, ask yourself where you are placing your trust. Do you believe that our Creator, the Lord of all the earth, is able to carry you through this week, and the next and the next? Don't be underwhelmed by God's power, rather be overwhelmed by His presence. Invite Him into the room, be still and worship your King.

2. Run Your Race: The race to the White House is not our race. Neither popular opinion, political position nor this week's election determine our outcome or eternity. Only Jesus does that. We can find rest in His promise to deliver His best for our lives when we keep our eyes fixed on Him.

"I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken." Psalm 16:8 NIV

"And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT

- What shakes you up, stresses you out or triggers worry and anxiety for you? Does that thing cause you to take your eyes off God or run toward Him?
- What are some things you currently do or could do to help you keep your eyes on Jesus?
- Choose one of the above verses and claim it as you run the race God has set before you. He will not only champion you, but He will use this to mature and grow your faith.

3. A Holy Influence: We can't ignore God's commands and expect to attain God's peace. We are called to regard [respect, cherish, value] God's commands with a healthy fear, not to take His grace and kindness for granted. It's when we abandon self to seek God that we truly experience the fullness of a life in Christ.

"So never grieve the Spirit of God or take for granted his holy influence in your life. Lay aside bitter words, temper tantrums, revenge, profanity, and insults." Ephesians 4:30-31 TPT

"So abandon every form of evil, deceit, hypocrisy, feelings of jealousy and slander." 1 Peter 2:1 TPT

Reflect on the verses above, then be REAL...

- With self: Does your fear of God change how you live? Are you willing to abandon self to seek God? Consider your words, actions, habits, opinions and choices. This isn't about getting it right 100% of the time, but rather faithfully and consistently making choices that honor God.
- With God: Ask God what you need to lay aside so that you can live right before Him today. Confess and ask Him to help you cultivate obedience into your life.
- With Others: Ask someone you trust if they see your faith impacting your life and/or how they think you can grow. Listen with a teachable spirit and humble heart. Then pray, asking the Holy Spirit to influence your life by reminding you when you need to abandon your will for God's way.

Cultivate Community: Who else can you ask to be a holy influence in your life? This might be someone who can gently tap you on the shoulder when you're getting distracted or who can re-direct you when you're losing your way. Or perhaps, you can offer yourself as a positive influence or mentor to someone you care about!