

Cultivate Reflection Guide

Year-End Reflection + Home for the Holidays December 26 & 27, 2020

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

The start of a new year naturally lends itself to both looking back and looking ahead. While 2020 was certainly a year for the books, God was moving and working in and through us. In fact, you may have felt the effects in greater ways than any year passed. Make some time this week to get alone with God and work through the following reflections. Be REAL, listen for His voice and invite the Holy Spirit to speak into your life as you respond to Him in prayer.

Looking Back: The evidence of 2020 struggles are all around us. We've each experienced the effects of the global pandemic and the changes it brought to even the smallest details of our lives. Rather than focus on what happened around you, reflect on what God did within you.

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.” Romans 8:28 NASB

- What is one thing you learned to let go of this year?
- What is one thing you learned this year that you want to carry with you for years to come?
- Is there anything you want to surrender [relinquish, lay down] so that you don't carry it into 2021?
- Is there anything you want to set as an intention [point of focus or desired growth] for 2021?

Pray: Thank God for what you've learned. Offer that thing you want to surrender asking God to take it out of your hands...and to keep taking it when you try to take it back. Invite God into that new growth you desire, asking Him to reveal His purposes for you so that you can follow and obey.

Looking Ahead: In his “Home After the Holidays” message, Pastor Matt challenged us to keep our lives divinely disrupted by turning to God's word – hearing it, reading it and studying it.

“As the snow and rain that fall from heaven do not return until they have accomplished their purpose, soaking the earth and causing it to sprout with new life, providing seed to sow and bread to eat. So also will be the word that I speak; it does not return to me unfulfilled. My word performs my purpose and fulfills the mission I sent it out to accomplish.” Isaiah 55:10-11 TPT

- What is your greatest challenge when it comes to cultivating [hearing, reading, studying, living] God's word into your life?
- What do you think it would take to overcome that challenge? Be specific if you're able. Is your need spiritual, emotional or relational? Do you need focus, time, persistence, encouragement, endurance, accountability, community, wisdom, courage, etc.?

God's uses His word to perform His purposes. He will meet you in your challenges when you are willing to meet Him in His word. That might not feel easy, convenient or comfortable – most disciplines don't – but God will multiply your effort SO THAT you can grow in REAL relationship with self, God and others.

Pray: Make a commitment to get into God's word. Ask God for what you need and trust that He will provide. As you walk forward in faith, celebrate progress, rather than pursue perfection. If you need help and support from others, share that with your community or a trusted friend and invite them to walk alongside you.