

# Cultivate Reflection Guide

## When in Rome: The True Power of Faith January 17/18, 2021

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at [cultivate.sc/discussion](http://cultivate.sc/discussion)

**NEW series:** Following God in a culture that doesn't is easier said than done. The book of Romans is full of foundational gospel truth that will teach us how our faith can influence the world around us, instead of letting others tell us what to believe – especially in the places where Christianity and culture collide.

Use our Weekly Reflection Guide, in community or through personal study, to live out what we're learning on the weekends. *It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you.* Choose the questions that are meaningful to you, then be REAL with self, God or others as you reflect, respond and pray.

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**Reflect/Respond:** What did you take away from this weekend's message? Reflect on how you were challenged, convicted, encouraged or instructed. What is one way you could live out what you're learning this week?

### As Christians, we...

**1. Must look for opportunities to share our faith:** As a follower of Jesus, each of us have been given an assignment from Him, his final words before his ascension to heaven. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15 NKJV

- How did you come to your faith in Christ? Were you brought up in a Christian family, did you learn about salvation through a church service or did someone in your life share the good news of God's love with you?
- Do you find yourself 'looking for opportunities' to share what you know or do you tend to shy away from that? If you tend to shy away, what are your reasons or reluctancies?

**2. Have an obligation to share our faith:** It's easy to think that it's the job of the church and pastors to spread the gospel, but it's the moral and spiritual obligation of every believer to share their 'God' story – through our words, actions and choices.

"I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to the foolish." Romans 1:14 ESV

... "And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful manner." 1 Peter 3:15-16 NLT

- Do you believe there is nothing more important than a person coming to Christ for their salvation? If yes, does your life reflect that? If not, what changes can you make personally so that before you share a word, your life testifies to your faith?
- Is there someone in your life that needs to hear the gospel message? Start by praying for them, for their hearts to be prepared and receptive to God's voice and truth.
- Are you willing to take a gentle and respectful first step – maybe an invitation to church or a conversation about what Jesus means to you? If not, what is holding you back and what would it take to overcome that?

**3. Must release the power of our faith:** We can easily give into our doubts – that we aren't qualified, spiritual or smart enough to share the gospel. That we'll say the wrong thing or give the wrong answer. The truth is, the gospel is the power. We simply need to share it and allow God to work in the heart it is falling on.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power unto salvation for all who believe." Romans 1:16

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7

- Be REAL with God about any insecurities or shame you have about sharing the gospel or even about your beliefs. Ask him to release you from fear and timidity, and give you a spirit of courage, humility and love.
- If our faith is kept personal, it will never be powerful. Ask God to show you who in your life you can share the good news with. Remember, arrogance and pushiness repel people, but your personal story shared with the right heart can make a powerful impact on the lives of others.