

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: Understanding the Beauty of Baptism

April 10/11, 2021

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

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 – 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.

1. REAL Grace: God's grace is a gift that we don't want to take for granted. Rather than use it as a free pass to cover up our sin, we need to receive it as an invitation into freedom from the power of sin.

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?” Romans 6:1-2 ESV

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.” Galatians 5:13 NLT

- Is there anything in your life that you're wrestling to be REAL with God about? This could be sin, but it could also be a behavior, attitude, habit or choice that is keeping you from authenticity with Him or others.
- What in you is keeping you from surrendering that to God?
- If you're ready to be REAL with self, God or others now, what is a next step you could take today?

2. REAL Growth: Baptism is an outward expression of inward change and a step toward new life. We often tell women...you may not be where you want, but if you pursue growth, you won't be where you were.

- What is one way you want to pursue growth, change or transformation (a new life)? This could be spiritually, relationally, emotionally or even physically.
- Invite Jesus into the growth you desire by asking Him to show you how you need to die to your old self SO THAT He can do a new work in you.

Live it Out Check out The Growth Path under the “Me” tab on the Sandals Church app. It's been created to help guide you in your ever-growing faith while you get connected with others at Sandals Church.

3. REAL Unity: Baptism unites different people as one family in God. Pastor Matt challenged us about being people who whine, complain and forget what it means to stand together as a body of believers united by Christ.

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.” Philippians 2:14-16 NIV

“I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.” 1 Corinthians 1:10 NLT

- How have you experienced complaining or criticism causing division?
- Why do you think unity is important as a body of believers?
- If you struggle with living in harmony with others [critical spirit, judgmental thoughts, careless words or withholding forgiveness] how do these verses and the beauty of baptism challenge you to grow or change?

Cultivate Forgiveness Join us for our Spring Book Study as we learn what the Bible has to say about forgiving and being forgiven. Learn more and register for our virtual or in person study at cultivate.sc/spring21.