

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: How to Have the Life Everyone Wants

June 19 & 20, 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 Reflection Guide for personal study throughout the week, to start a REAL conversation with friends or under the direction of your community group leader. Choose the questions that challenge you to reflect and respond as you live out what we're learning on the weekends. Remember...it's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!

Reflect/Respond: How were you personally encouraged, instructed or challenged by the message? This could be a word, verse or point that got your attention or got you thinking. How can you cultivate that into your life SO THAT you can begin to live out what you're learning?

We Can Be Jealous: It's human nature to wrestle with jealousy, but left unchecked, unhealthy jealousy of others will distract us from what God wants to do in our lives and ultimately steal our potential.

⁶But godliness *actually* is a source of great gain when accompanied by contentment [that contentment which comes from a sense of inner confidence based on the sufficiency of God ... ⁹But those who [are not financially ethical and] crave to get rich [with a compulsive, greedy longing for wealth] fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction [leading to personal misery]." 1 Timothy 6:6,9 AMP

- As you consider the potential traps for unhealthy jealousy [looks, wealth, relationships, opportunities, talents or attention] which is the greatest struggle for you? Why do you think that is?
- How does that struggle impact your relationship with self, God and others? For example – does it cause self-doubt, make you question God's fairness or resent others?
- What habits, practices or choices do you need to change SO THAT you can be more focused on God and less distracted by the people/things around you? Consider the following:
 - Does scrolling social media cause you to compare your life to others?
 - Do any possessions you own actually own you, stealing your time and attention?
 - Are you willing to celebrate others for their success and healthy relationships?
 - Do you fixate on opportunities others enjoy and fail to pursue those in front of you?
 - Are you defining your worth based on attention from people or your identity in God?
- If God has pointed out any unhealthy jealousy in your heart, confess it right now. Tell Him what you're struggling to believe is enough – whether that's within you or around you.
- Now, magnify God's goodness in your life by praising Him for the beauty, opportunities, potential, finances, family or blessings He has given you.
- The life we want is a life that magnifies our ministry. How do you want to grow in your love for God, His word and His people? What is one practical thing you can do to pursue that this week?

Dig Deeper: Psalm 37 is an incredible contrast between the fading things of this world and the lasting beauty of a life devoted to God. Read it to align your heart with God's and be reminded of the satisfaction and contentment found in loving Him above all else.