

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: How to Live the Christian Life

June 26 & 27, 2021

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

[UPDATE] Since the start of 2021, we've been learning *what* we believe as Christians and *why* we believe it. As we continue our When in Rome series this summer, our focus shifts to *how* we live out what we're learning. When what we believe changes how we live, we experience REAL growth!

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. Keep in mind...*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 begin to live out what you're learning?

Read Romans 12:1-2: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is true worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."

The Christian life is lived in response to:

1) The Mercy of God: We all live in response to something – but too often rather than respond to what God has done *for us*, we respond to what others have done *to us*.

- Think about a time you recently "responded" to someone else. It could be words you spoke, thoughts you dwelled on, a choice you made or even actions you took.
- If not mercy, then what motivated your response? Was it offense, entitlement, anger, fear, etc.?
- If you could do it over again "in view of God's mercy," what would you do differently?
- When we know better, we do better. Is there anything you can do to make that difference REAL today for yourself, God or others? If you're not sure, ask God to show you what is good, pleasing and perfect.

Dig Deeper: God's mercies are new every morning, but sometimes we suffer through darkness before the dawn. Read Lamentations 3 for a raw, honest and beautiful example of what it looks like to respond to God's mercy even when darkness and difficulty are real.

2) The Calling of God: God's calling on our lives is to be like Jesus. To live out that calling, we must be able to hear Jesus' voice in our lives.

- Are there any "voices" in your life that are drowning out Jesus? This might be what you're listening to, who you're surrounding yourself with or even your own thoughts, ideas and opinions.
- What is a practical way you could renew your mind SO THAT you can hear Jesus more clearly? This might be something you need to STOP doing or something you want to START doing.

3) The Thoughts of God: To know what is good, perfect and pleasing to Jesus, we need to know Him. Sometimes we spend so much time trying to understand Jesus, we forget to be with Him. Get alone, quiet your mind and respond to Jesus' invitation to find rest in His presence...

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matthew 11:28-30 MSG