

Cultivate Reflection Guide

Holy Shift: Changing the Way I See God January 22/23, 2022

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Jesus gave his followers practices, rhythms and habits to follow that He knew would change them. Holy Shift invites us to consider our habits and shift our spiritual practices toward God.

Our weekly Reflection Guide equips you to start a REAL conversation in your community group, as well as cultivate God's word into your life through personal bible study. Choose the questions that challenge you to reflect and respond to what we're learning. *It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

Read: [Acts 17:22-31 ESV](#)

Reflect: As you reflect on the weekend message, what most instructed, encouraged or challenged you? This could be any word, verse or point that got your attention.

Respond:

1. So often, we ask for God's presence out of need or want. That is not a bad thing, but over time that mindset can cause us to take God's presence for granted, as if He's only around when we ask Him to be.
 - Do you live like God is close OR do you forget that "we live and move and have our being" in Him?
 - Look around – where do you see the evidence of God's presence in your life today? You might create a list on your phone or in a journal, then add to it as you continue to experience God.
2. The presence of God is **beautiful, powerful** and **absolute**. He is with you even when you cannot see, feel or hear Him.
 - Is there anywhere you're struggling to believe that God is with you? Why do you think that is?
 - Sometimes we need to look back at what God *has done* SO THAT we believe in what He *will do*. Reflect on at time when God was faithful to you, even if your faith wavered. How did He show up?
 - How does the truth about God's presence, as well as your own experience, encourage your faith?
3. God is **different** from what you think.
 - [Read Isaiah 55:8-13 NLT](#). God tells us He thinks and understands differently than we do, then gives us an illustration to prove His point [v9]. What does that tell you about the difference between us and Him?
 - It's not only God's thoughts that are different from ours. What else does He use to work in our lives [v11]? What growth and goodness does God promise He can accomplish [v12-13]?
 - How do these verses challenge what you think about God's power and love?
4. God is **better** than you think.
 - Rather than look at Jesus' goodness, we look at others to see how we measure up. This can lead to self-righteousness [*"I'm better than them"*] or lack of self-worth [*"I'm never enough"*]. Is there anywhere you're looking that is either deceiving you or distracting you from real goodness?
 - What can you do to shift your focus from others to Jesus? Be specific: I need to stop or start _____.

Prayer: Instead of telling God what you think, ask Him to show you His thoughts toward you. Invite Him to search your heart and mind and begin the work of changing you from the inside out, so that you have a right and true understanding of who He is.

Live it Out: What is a habit, practice or rhythm you need to cultivate into your life so that you can live every single day with the understanding that God is close to you? He is beautiful, powerful and absolute, and He is with you.