

Cultivate Reflection Guide

25 Years of Different
Pastor Matt & Tammy Brown | November 19-20, 2022

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It can be hard to stand up for what's different. If we want to live differently, we need to see life through a new lens. The apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians is a reminder and a challenge to us that we live differently because we belong to Jesus.

Our Reflection Guide is a tool to help you grow spiritually wise, relationally kind and emotionally healthy. Use it to start a REAL conversation in community or to cultivate God's word into your life through personal bible study. Choose the questions that most encourage you to reflect and respond to what we're learning. Pair it with your bible, a journal or any resource that helps you learn. *It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

Read: [Ephesians 3:20-21](#). As we celebrate 25 years of God's exceeding abundance at Sandals Church, take some time to reflect on what God has accomplished in your life through the church. How has the vision to be REAL personally changed and/or challenged you?

Reflect & Respond:

1. We can spend a lot of time trying to **figure out** the future, all the while **forgetting** that God is already there.
 - Is there anything you're worried or wondering about, either presently or for the future?
 - [Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](#). Before you look ahead, look back. How has God proven faithful to you up until now? How can what *He has done* give you confidence in what *He can do*?
 - In scripture, God's people create markers of remembrance to signify what He has done in their life SO THAT future generations are reminded too. Take ground today and create a marker to help you remember God's faithfulness – today and forever. This could be as simple as a note in the margin of your bible, a calendar entry on your phone or a prayer in your journal.
2. Wounds are real, but **bitterness robs us** of the better path God has for us.
 - Our pain can take many forms – confusion, grief, shame, conflict, disappointment – just to name a few. Are there any open wounds in your life?
 - Bitterness, resentment, anger and sin might feel justified, but they re-open our wounds, and hurt others too. How might your wounds be working against you becoming who God has called you to be? How might they keep others from seeing Jesus at work in you?
 - What would it take for you to lay down the hurt and get on with Jesus? Are you willing to do that today?
3. In order of importance, Pastor Matt shared **seven goals** we should pursue if we want clarity on God's plans for our lives: 1) spiritual, 2) family, 3) relational, 4) professional, 5) intellectual, 6) physical and 7) financial.
 - [Read Matthew 6:33](#). How do your personal priorities [the way you live] align with these goals?
 - In which, can you celebrate success? In which, do you need to experience re-alignment or growth?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for being a loving Father who is not only with me today, but who goes before me into my future. You are faithful to me and so I can trust you as I lay down my past hurt and choose to believe you for the hope and promise ahead of me. Help me to put you first and pursue right priorities so that I can live the life you've called me to as I become the person you've called me to be. Amen.

Kindly Note

Beginning next week and through Christmas Eve, in lieu of our Weekly Reflection Guide, we invite you to join Sandals Church Women as we cultivate the wonder of God's word into our lives through our NEW Advent Bible Reading Plan. Find a copy at your home campus or download one today at cultivate.sc/wonder. ♥