

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
CULTIVATE UPDATE • DECEMBER 11, 2022



CULTIVATE

Foundational Practice: Celebrating the Work of God

This month, we are focusing on our foundational practice of celebrating the work of God (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). We mark moments, make memories, and joyfully delight in life with God! We call out God's work in one another's lives and praise the One who created us and delights in us. Take a few minutes for people to share their responses to the following questions: What is something that you have watched God do in your life, or around you, that you can celebrate from this past week? How have you delighted in the Lord this week and/or experienced God's delight in you?

1. **Read Psalm 136 out loud as a group.** *Take turns reading one verse at a time until the whole psalm is read aloud.* What was it like hearing the whole psalm read aloud? What verse(s) specifically caught your attention and why? How does this psalm help us stop and acknowledge the goodness of God?
2. The heart of Cultivate is "to strengthen this generation and grow the next generation into a deep, abiding relationship with Jesus Christ" (Psalm 71:17-18). As you reflect on all that God has already done through Cultivate, how have you seen Him strengthen this generation and grow the next generation? How, and where, is God leading you to be a part of strengthening this generation and growing the next generation in a deep, abiding relationship with Jesus Christ?

"O God, you have taught me from my youth, and I still declare you wondrous deeds, and even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare your strength to this generation, your power to all who are to come."

- PSALM 71:17-18

3. **Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 out loud.** What comes to mind as you hear this passage read aloud and think about the invitation to give towards Cultivate? What have you learned about God through your own personal experiences of giving and/or receiving from others' generosity? How does knowing/believing the heart of giving change or grow your perspective of giving? (*so that Christ is proclaimed and people are reached*)

CLOSING CHALLENGE

Prayer of Recollection (Psalm 63:6-8. & Ps. 145): Opportunity to recount what God has done. Take 5-10 minutes to recall how you've seen God's generous heart in your life this past year.
