

Reflection Guide



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Before you begin...

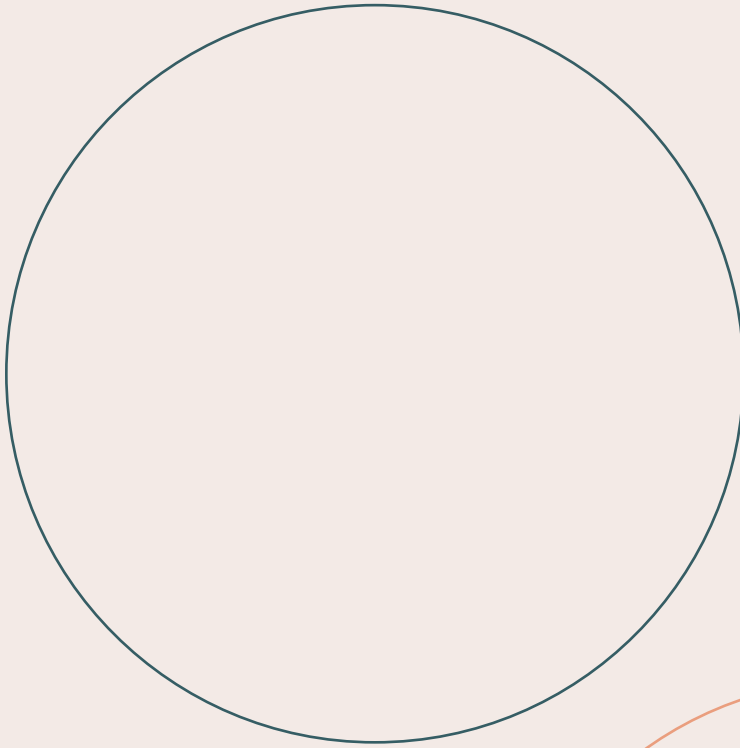
We know this year has been filled with experiences completely different than years past. We want to help you process your thoughts, feelings, and expectations from this past year as we look for ways to grow in 2022.

If you are a verbal processor...

Here are some questions to keep in mind while you process with a friend. Be bold, ask a friend to do this with you!

In what area of your life have you seen the most personal growth this year? (ex: emotional, mental, spiritual, relational, physical)	In what area of your life have you seen the most disappointment this year? (ex: emotional, mental, spiritual, relational, physical)
Is there anything you want to say about this year that feels like you just can't say it or you feel guilty if you do say it? Speak it out	If Jesus were sitting across from you now, what do you think He would say to you about your year?

Look at the 2 circles. In one, write everything good
that has happened this year that you can think of.
In the second circle, write all your
disappointments from this year.



²⁶Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters; ³⁰and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³Who will bring charges against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We were regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:26-39

Re-read verse 28...

Look at your “disappointment list.” How might God be working even your disappointments for good?

Write down some ideas beside the disappointment list.

If you had to counsel someone through some unmet expectations or disappointments, how would you use this passage to help them?

What’s one thing you want to remember about God or yourself from these verses?

Think back to January 2021 - your hopes, plans, expectations, etc. for the year ahead. Knowing what you know now about how 2021 has played out, how would you encourage and pray for yourself?

“But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.”

2 Corinthians 4:7

What now?

Where do we go from here?

While there's a lot we don't know about the future, here's what we do know...

If you've placed your trust in Christ alone to forgive you of your sins, you have a sure and steady foundation in Him (John 1:12, John 5:24, Hebrews 6:19-20).

Which of these verses shows you about the love of Jesus towards you and why?

If someone saw how you spend your time, what would they say your priorities are?

Who or what is on the throne of your life right now--ruling your actions, controlling your thoughts, effectively directing your life?

Will 2022 be any different?

Priorities can be evaluated and changed. God's Word tells us that loving Him and loving our neighbors as ourselves are to be our highest priorities (Matthew 22:37-40, Matthew 28:19-20).

What do you want to give your best to (time, focus, money, effort)?

What are you holding on to that you need to let go of?

Heading into 2022, one thing I want to...

keep

cut

add

Who do I need around me to increase my chance of success?
(i.e. a friend, roommate, mentor, community group, etc.) Write specific
names and reach out for their support.