

Mystic



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Prepare a focal point with a candle, a mirror, and photos of different people with different expressions.
- Provide hand mirrors for each person in the group.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Learning Together

SAY: Sometimes we cannot truly turn to God to save us, without first turning over to God what might keep us from him – prayers that do not truly express our thoughts and feelings, but are more of a polished presentation to God.

- Show the “Bruce Almighty” clip (stop the clip after Morgan Freeman says “What is it that you really want?”)
- Have someone read Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 out loud.
- Show the *Bible Background Video*.
- SAY: In this psalm, the refrain asks God to show his face or to reveal God’s self to the people. But consider the honesty of the people’s words in between the refrain, and how their prayers reveal THEIR face to God. They let God see exactly what they are feeling, thinking, wanting. It’s as if they are answering an unrecorded request where God says “Let me see YOUR face . . . what is really there . . .?”
- Look at the verses together and consider that when we are suffering, or going through trials and difficulties, the real place of prayer can be:
 - Pleading with God vv. 1-2
 - Accusing God (that he is angry with us or punishing us) vv. 4-6
 - Bargaining with God vv. 16-18

✔ Individual Reflection

Give each person a mirror and invite him/her to go off to a quiet private place with the following prompts:

Think about a current life situation that you would like to bring to God

Look in the mirror:

- What does your expression tell you?

- Have you adjusted your expression in any way, or does your face accurately show what you’re thinking/feeling with regards to your situation?

Consider:

- What face am I presenting to God today?
- What prayer words would most accurately show God my true face today?

Spend some time sharing your thoughts/feelings with God.

✔ Group Reflection

Say: The psalm also has the refrain “Restore us, O Lord God Almighty.”

Discuss the following: In your situation, what is it that you most want God to restore? The situation? Your faith? The relationship?

Close the time in intercessory prayer for each other.

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