

Mystic



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the video's listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Prepare a poster or 3 strips of paper with the three sentences of Eric Fromm's understanding of God's name written on it them as printed below.
- Provide pens and paper.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Discuss And Pray

Ask someone to read Genesis 9:8-17. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Naming our fears and concerns: Nikki asks us to consider that God changes and adjusts to us in this text, and today.

- *What is disturbing about this idea?*
- *What is reassuring about this idea?*
- *How do our fears and concerns keep us from getting to know God in deeper ways?*
- *What is the worst that can happen as we ponder new understandings of God's Being? What is the best that can happen?*

Invite the group to close their eyes and open their hands, palms up on their laps. Invite people to "place in their hands" all the fears and concerns that have been discussed (or kept private) and release them into God's care silently by symbolically raising their hands "up to God."

SAY: In Exodus 3:14, God tells Moses that God's name is "I am that I am" which has also been translated "I will be what I will be". Psychologist Eric Fromm understands God's name to mean "*I, God, am in the process of becoming; neither I nor human understanding of Me is yet complete. And you human beings, fashioned in the image of God, are also in the process of becoming.*"

✓ Discuss

Take each sentence of Eric Fromm's quotation and invite people to share their insights, questions, reactions to his understanding of God's name.

✓ Silent Journal Reflection

Prepare your heart to be as honest as you can about your current thoughts about God.

- Invite God to be present with you as you reflect, and to give you the grace to receive whatever God might be saying to you.
- Jot down a list of God's actions (from the Bible and as perceived in your own life experience) that reveal aspects of his nature that are reassuring to you.
- Jot down a list of God's actions (from the Bible as as perceived in your own life experience) that seem to reveal aspects of his nature that are disturbing to you.
- Is there anything you wish God would do differently in the world? Your life? Write those things down.
- Imagine that you and God sit down together for a conversation. Imagine that you hand him your lists and God reads them over. How does God seem to respond? How do you respond? (note to leader: affirm the fact that some prayers will remain unresolved, and that is okay. This is not a sign of God's care or lack of care.)

✓ Close

Listen in the large group to Nichole Nordeman sing "Who You Are"

Have a prayer for courage to let God be God, and to permit our understanding of God to deepen and not be limited by our fears.

By Joy Yee

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Singing
the
Hours

Joy Yee