

God in the Mirror

Discussion Guide

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Series Overview

Are you ready to discover who God created you to be? This series explores five facets of your spiritual identity. You will explore your individual uniqueness, your role as God’s moral mirror, your authority to rule your environment, your friendship with God, and your eternal nature.

Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons on Miles McPherson’s video series “God in the Mirror.” This video series is available to Grace Group Leaders through RightNowMedia.org and coincides with the Grace Church sermon series “#selfie.”

Note to Grace Group Leader: If you do not already have access to RightNowMedia’s library, contact gracegroups@visitgracechurch.com

You may choose to use this guide:

- with your Grace Group
 - with any group of people interested in knowing more about their spiritual identity.
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1-Are You Ready for This?

Icebreaker: See Me

Discuss the reasons that social media is so popular. Discuss the types of things that people share about themselves on social media. Have you ever done a “selfie” that you’d be willing to show your group?

Discussion Questions

- In what ways can you see the following in yourself? Which facets of the spiritual diamond do you struggle to see in yourself?

I	God created you as an Individually Unique person.
M	God made you to be a Moral Mirror of His character.
A	God has given you Authority to rule your environment.
G	You are God’s Friend .
E	God created you to be Eternal .

- According to **Psalm 19:1-6** and **Romans 1:20**, how does God’s creation declare His presence, power, and glory? Discuss times when you have felt close to God by noticing His creation. What aspects of God come to your mind when you think about His creation?
- What are some ways we can get closer to God to allow His light to shine more in our lives?

James 1:21-27

John 10:27

1Chronicles 16:29

- How has observing other people revealed attributes of God to you? Which attributes have you noticed in people?
 - ▶ intelligence, abstract thinking
 - ▶ creativity, appreciation of beauty
 - ▶ compassion, moral consciousness
 - ▶ other _____

Group Prayer

Pray as a group. Include some of the items on this list:

- Thank God for the beauty of His creation.
- Thank God that He lets His light, life, and love shine through you.
- Pray that the image of God will increasingly shine through the lives of each person in your group.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you notice the image of God in the people you interact with each day.

Application Exercise

In the coming week, let God's light shine in and through you in **one** of the spiritual facets (IMAGE). Be prepared to discuss your experience at our next meeting.

Personal Reflection

What can you do to grow in each of the five areas of God's image in yourself? Consider:

- Things to **remove** from your life that are blocking God's light.
- People you can **observe** who set a good example for you.
- Things you can **do** to be more available to God.

2-You Were Created to Be Individually Unique

Icebreaker: One of a Kind

- From last session's Application Exercise, which facet of the spiritual diamond did you explore? Tell the group about it.
- Have you ever felt like a square peg in a round hole? What are some things you have done to try to blend in with others?
- If you had to do one crazy thing to your appearance, what would you do?

Discussion Questions

- According to **Psalm 139:13-16** what does God want you to see when you look in the mirror?
- If you were talking to others who did not see their own uniqueness and the beauty of who God made them to be, what advice would you give them? Why is it difficult to give yourself the same advice when you look in the mirror?
- God made humans to be creative, inventive, and innovative. Discuss the ways God has made those in your group creative. Tell your group some ways you are creative that might surprise them. How does your expression of inventiveness reveal the presence of God in you?
- In the video, Miles said Satan tries to convince us that we don't need God (**John 8:42-44** and **1Pet 5:8-9**). He calls it being an "I AM" impostor. What thoughts make you in danger of falling for Satan's lies?
- According to **Philippians 2:5-11**, **Colossians 1:15-20**, and **Hebrews 1:1-6**, how is Jesus unique among all people?
 - ▶ What did Miles mean when he challenged us to let Christ live in us like a **hand in a glove**?
 - ▶ How does having a relationship with Jesus help you walk away from being an "I AM" impostor and toward surrendering to the Great I AM?

Group Prayer

Spend time praying in your group. Include some of these:

- Thank God that He has made each of you unique from the rest of His creation. Acknowledge that He has made you special and different from anyone else.
- Praise God for how wonderful He is.
- Ask God to help you see His image in you.
- Admit where you are tempted to be an “I AM” impostor. Ask Him to help you walk in His power and not your own.
- Praise Jesus for His example in how to live and love in a way that honors God.

Application Exercise

Considering what Miles said in the video and the discussion your group had, take some actions in the next week that help you see yourself as God sees you. Be prepared to discuss your actions at our next group meeting. Your actions might include:

- Reading **Psalm 139** each day.
- Praying about how to let your uniqueness reflect God to others.
- Telling others when you see that their uniqueness reflects God.

Personal Reflection

Read **Psalm 139** and think about how He loves you and interacts with you. Think about how God sees you. How can knowing this change the way you view yourself and other people?

3-You Were Created to Be God's Moral Mirror

Icebreaker: Mirror, Mirror

- What did you do after our last meeting to help you see yourself as God sees you?
- How would you react if looking in the mirror showed you your thoughts and emotions rather than your physical appearance? How might that be helpful? How might that be unsettling?

Discussion Questions

- How has our culture's understanding of what is moral and right changed in the last couple of decades?
- Where can we turn to know for certain what are God's moral absolutes [[Heb 13:8](#)]?
- What tactics does Satan use to get us to confuse natural light with spiritual light [[1Pet 5:8-9](#), [John 8:44](#), [Mat 4:1-11](#)]?
- According to [Psalm 119:1-16](#) and [1John 5:3](#) what are some ways to be God's moral mirror and reflect spiritual light?
- In what ways can reading God's Word help you be aware of whether you are reflecting natural light or spiritual light [[Heb 4:12](#)]?
 - ▶ What hinders you from spending time in God's Word?
 - ▶ Have you tried one of the [OWNit365.com](#) Bible reading plans that Grace Church provides? Which of the following [OWNit365.com](#) tools have you tried: App that sends a daily Bible reading reminder, downloadable weekly reading tip sheets, video summary of each book in the Bible, downloadable summary of each book in the Bible?

Group Prayer

Spend time praying in your group. Include some of these:

- Thank God for His light that shines in and through you.
- Thank God for His Word.
- Ask God to help the members of your group make a difference in your community as they reflect God's moral standards.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to move you to actions and thoughts that honor God and reflect His light.
- Pray that you are able to see when natural light moves you and when God's spiritual light moves you.

Application Exercise

Pick an activity that looks good on the outside. Find a way to make your participation in the activity entirely focused on glorifying God. Come to our next group meeting prepared to describe what you did to be sure it was **all about God** and not you. Some activities to consider are:

- Participating in a community service event.
- Participating in a worship service.
- Helping someone you don't know well who is in a time of need.
- Giving generously of your time, talents, and treasures to our church.
- Telling someone how you came to accept Christ as Savior.

Personal Reflection

Identify a behavior in your life that looks good on the outside but you know your motive is your own glory rather than His. Confess your motive to God. Ask Him to change your heart and motives so that you reflect His light.

4-You Were Created with the Authority to Rule

Icebreaker: Who's the Boss?

- What good activity did you do after our last meeting and what did you do to be sure it was all about God?
- Share memories about those who were a “boss” in your life when you were a child. In what ways did they nurture you or discourage you?

Discussion Questions

- According to **Matthew 20:25-28** what is God's view on authority?
 - ▶ What are some ways people have misunderstood or abused the idea of authority?
 - ▶ How can someone in a relationship with an authority taker keep from being discouraged?
- Some people see submission as weakness and authority as justification to dominate another person. How does **Ephesians 5:21-28** contradict that kind of thinking?
- Brainstorm a list of specific ways we can create an environment around us that nurtures others.
- What does God say about the power of our words (**Pro 12:18, Pro 18:21, Jas 3:1-12**)? What can help us use the power of our words as God desires?

Group Prayer

Spend time praying in your group. Include some of these:

- Thank God for creating an amazing world.
- Ask God for wisdom in being a good steward of His creation.
- Thank God for the people He has placed in your life. Pray that He helps you grow in your ability to create a positive environment for them.
- Ask God to help you use words to encourage others.

Application Exercise

Select one area where you can improve the environment for others. With God's help, begin making improvements before our next meeting. Be ready to tell us your experience. Areas to consider:

- Marriage
- Children
- Friends
- Work associates
- Church family
- Extended family
- Neighbors

Personal Reflection

- Think about how you see God in creation and how He wants you to appreciate and care for His creation.
- Think about ways you can do better at using your words to encourage others. If there are people encouraging you with their words, let them know you appreciate them.
- Consider how others perceive you. Would they say you make their life better or worse? With God's help, what changes will you make?

5-You Were Created to Be God's Friend

Icebreaker: Perfect Friend

- From last week's Application Exercise, where did you make some changes to your environment to help others?
- Make a list of qualities that a perfect friend should have. Discuss why it is difficult to be a perfect friend to others.

Discussion Questions

- What kind of tactics does Satan use to try to damage our relationship with God [**Gen 3:1-13**]? What are some ways to fight against these tactics?
- According to **Genesis 2:15-25**, what is God's view on being alone?
- What are the two greatest commandments [**Mat 22:36-40**]?
 - ▶ In the video, Miles pointed out that we can't do these two most important things if we live outside of relationships. Why is that?
 - ▶ What has interfered with you having good relationships?
- In **John 17:20-26**, what does Jesus pray for believers?
 - ▶ How does having good relationships with others affect a believer's ability to help others see Christ's love?
 - ▶ Miles emphasized that good relationships are based on our confidence that God is faithful and trustworthy. What damages your trust in God and others? How can you deepen your trust in God?

<i>Things that damage trust</i>	<i>Things that deepen trust</i>

Group Prayer

Spend time praying in your group. Include some of these:

- Thank God for wanting to be your friend.
- Ask God to help you be a good friend to each person He has placed in your life.
- Praise God for the amazing example of relational harmony that He demonstrates in the Trinity.
- Invite God to heal the places in your heart where you still carry scars of relational hurt.
- Pray that you will learn to be God's friend on a deeper level and that this will flow over into your other relationships.

Application Exercise

Maintaining any relationship takes regular time together. What are you willing to do to improve your relationship with God?

<i>In the LAST 7 days</i>	<i>In the NEXT 7 days</i>
How much time DID you spend praying?	How much time WILL you spend praying?
How much time DID you spend reading God's Word?	How much time WILL you spend reading God's Word?
How much time DID you spend praising God?	How much time WILL you spend praising God?

Personal Reflection

Reflect on a time when you said or did something that damaged a relationship. What can you do to restore the other person's trust in you? Pray that God guide you in this process and that the person begins to see God's faithfulness through you.

6-You Were Created to Be Eternal

Icebreaker: The Picture

- In the past week, how much more time did you spend praying, reading God’s Word, or praising God? Describe your experience.
- If you were going to create a picture of you and God together to show Him how you viewed your relationship, what would the picture look like?

Discussion Questions

- From **1John 3:1-3**, what do you learn about yourself now and in eternity? What does “we shall be like him” mean?
- What do the following passages tell us about heaven?

John 14:2-4
Col 3:1-4
Rev 22:3-5

- What do the following passages tell us about hell?

Mat 13:36-43
Luke 16:19-31
Rev 21:8

- While on earth, where does God want us to focus our thoughts (**Heb 12:1-3**)? What are some earthly things that interfere with the focus God desires for you?

Group Prayer

Spend time praying in your group. Include some of these:

- Thank God that heaven awaits those who have accepted Christ as Savior.
- Invite God to use you to tell others about the good news of Christ.
- Ask God to help your life reflect Him more every day.
- Pray for your eyes, mind, and heart to be fixed on God.

Application Exercise

Make a plan to continue to reflect more of God's light.

<i>Things I will do less of or stop doing</i>	<i>Things I will begin doing or do more</i>

Personal Reflection

Think about which areas of your life are in most need of improvement to line up with God's plan. Ask God for guidance on how to please Him in those areas of your life.



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