

Session One

SEE AND BE SEEN

Opening Worship

For Reflection

Psalm 139 tells us that God knows every single thing about us – even the things we do not know yet (or would like to keep hidden). This means that God knows and claims the people we might not see (or want to see) in just the same way. If God loves the people we cannot love just as much as God loves us, how does that affect the way we look at our neighbors and people we do not think we know how to see?

Introductory Video

“[Everyday Life](#)” by Coldplay

Opening Sentences

One: In a world of categories and labels,

All: We are seen by a God who loves us.

One: In a time full of violence and division,

All: We are seen by a God who loves us.

One: In a church where we might feel confused or not quite good enough,

All: We are seen by a God who loves us. Let us worship God.

Song

“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”

Listening for God’s Word

Psalm 139 & Matthew 25:31-46

Reflection on God’s Word

Rev. CeCe Armstrong
Video available on the PYT Website

Prayer

One: Look at your thumbprint. Consider for a moment that this tiny patch of skin is so unique that this pattern etched on your thumb can single you out from every other human being on the entire planet! No other person on earth bears your same thumbprint. This is but more evidence of God’s limitless imagination and creativity. God has designed human genetics to produce billions of individual and unique thumbprints – no two the same. It is God’s way of saying that you are God’s best new idea. You are God’s best new story; never before told. You are a story that cannot be replaced by another.

All: God, you have created me to do some definite service. You have called me to some work and purpose that you have not committed to another. I have my mission. I am a bond of connection between persons. You have not created me for naught. So, I shall do good. I shall do your work.

I shall be a preacher of truth without intending it if I but open my heart and eyes and follow you. Therefore, I will trust you. Whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. You do nothing in vain; nothing is wasted if it is brought into my life by you. You know what you are doing. Amen.

Song "I Need You to Survive" by David Frazier OR "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Closing Blessing

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Romans 15:13

Closing Worship

Call to Worship

One: Some of us like to stand out in a crowd and others of us like to blend into the background. God sees us where we are and calls us to come.

All: Some of us feel exposed and others of us feel invisible. God sees us where we are and calls us to come.

One: As we draw closer to the one who calls, we might see faces that are different than ours.

Higher Voices: We might share truths that are hard to comprehend.

Lower Voices: We might hear stories that do not match our experiences.

All: We come from different places, and God sees us where we are.

One: Let's lay down our disguises and our defenses.

All: Together we will worship the Lord!

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know the me that I show everyone else and the me I hope no one ever sees. You know the me that tries to fit in and the me that is often overlooked. You know that I often look on the world selfishly, seeing only the things I want to see and pleading ignorance to the rest. In your mercy, unblur my vision that I might focus on my life and the world as they are and not as I pretend them to be. Forgive me for the ways in which I have denied reality and made excuses for myself and others. Wash the mud from my eyes and renew my sight, I pray. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

"I Am Loved" by Common Hymnal

Prayer

As we conclude this day, O God, we want to bring before you those whom we have seen and those whom we have failed to truly see. You who have taught us that you knew us before we were fully formed and go before and behind us, we thank you for the many ways in which you see the deepest places in our lives. Help us to mirror such compassion for others. On this day we thank you for the circle of those who enrich our lives:

Those new friends and old acquaintances with whom we have connected today...
Those who are not physically present but surround our lives with love and care...
Those who have shaped our lives and continue to guide our future...
We are bold to pray for those who need to be remembered today:
Those who have made the news headlines today because of what they have done or said...
Those who have been brought to our attention because of a meeting, conversation, or message...
Those who are in the hospital, in care, or a place that is strange to them...
Those in whose family or relationship there is stress or a break-up...
Those who are waiting for a birth, or a death, or news that will affect their lives...
Those who need to forget the God they do not believe in and meet the God who believes in them...
Those whose pain or potential we should not forget to share with you today...
Help us to have eyes to see those whom we so often overlook. And help us be present to those who need us. Lord, we believe that you hear our prayers and will be faithful to your promise to answer us. So, as we end this prayer may we do so not to end our devotions, but to expect your kingdom, for Jesus' sake. Amen

Song

“This Is the Moment/Esté Momento”

Closing Blessing

From where we are to where you need us - Christ, be beside us.
From what we are to what you can make of us - Christ, be before us.
Through the streets of this world to the gates of heaven - Christ, be above us.
Surround us with your presence, inspire us with your purpose, confirm us with your love. Amen.¹

Examine me, O God. Look at my heart! Psalm 139:23

