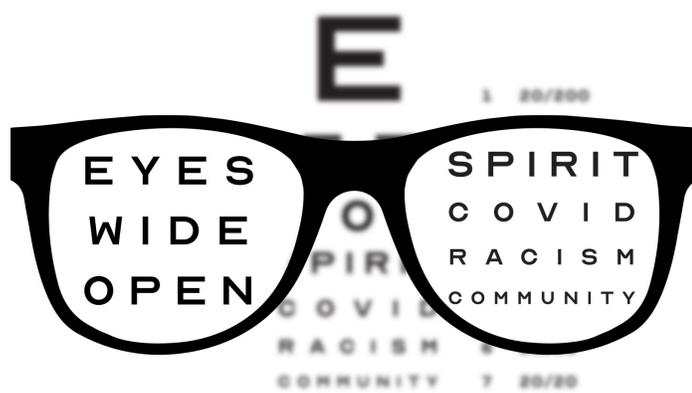


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Seeing Clearly

*August 2, 2020*

How do we see God? What image of God do we hold? What stories about God and God's character do we tell ourselves? Is God good, or not? Is God present, or not? How we see God matters. It can be the difference between a faith that breaths life and joy into us, or a faith that imprisons us in fear and condemnation.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: PSALM 145:8-9, 14-21

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

Psalms 145 is the final Psalm of David in the book of Psalms. David was a man who had a long and deep relationship with God, and in this final psalm David provides us a picture of the God he has come to know and love. What a picture of God David paints for us. And if you pay careful attention to it you'll discover that David describes both who God is, that is, God's character, and what God does. David says that God is: Merciful, Compassionate, Patient, Loving, Good, Generous, and Helpful. And because that is God's character, here's what God does in David's experience: God lightens our load when we're burdened, God provides for our needs, God grants our desires, God rescues us from danger, and God protects us from evil.

When we struggle to get a clear picture of who God is, our faith calls us to put on the most powerful of corrective lenses: Jesus. Jesus entered into the ugly realities of this world. He didn't run from those realities. He embraced them. And the ugliness of his death, coupled with the beauty of his resurrection, show us the pattern of what God is doing in this world – beauty from ashes, life from death, light into darkness, all things new. That is what we dare to believe to be true about the God we worship. That is the picture of God we cling to. No matter what we see in this broken world, above it, below it around it and within it we see a merciful, compassionate, patient, loving, good, generous and helpful God at work.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does Psalm 145 align with how you see God?
- How do we reconcile this image of God with the destruction and pain we see first hand in the world?
- Has 2020 affected how you view God? Are you seeing God more clearly or is God still foggy? Why?
- How might God be calling you to help others see more clearly?

**APPLICATION:** This week, spend some time in prayer each day, asking God to help you see more clearly. How might God be calling you to live in such a way that inspires others to dare to believe?