



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE FRACTURED MIRROR

SPEAKER: Russell Joyce

DATE: September 21, 2025

TEXT(S): Genesis 1-3

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: *This resource is designed to help you, or your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4's teaching.*

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

God designed creation as a mirror of His love, one that is balanced, harmonious, and beautiful. Like a child finding identity in a parent's gaze, humanity was meant to be captivated by and reflect God's love. But sin shattered that. Instead of keeping their eyes on the loving God with them, Adam and Eve's gaze turned inward. Their desire to be like God overcame their delight in God's design, breaking shalom and alienating their relationships with God, self, others, and creation. Yet God did not look away from them. Even in judgment, He covered their shame and promised a Savior who would crush evil. Though the mirror of God's image in us is fractured, God still calls creation beautiful, choosing to restore and redeem what is broken through Jesus Christ, including you and me.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. When you were a kid, who was the person you most wanted to be like?
2. Who in your life has been the best "mirror" for you, helping you see yourself more clearly or positively?
3. If you could go back and tell your younger self one encouraging or corrective truth, what would it be?
4. Think of something beautiful in creation that mirrors God and takes your breath away: what comes to mind first?
5. Share one small, ordinary thing in your week that brought you unexpected joy, maybe a moment that reminded you of God's love and goodness.

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the message. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. In Genesis 1, what does it mean that God created humans "in his image"? How is that like mirroring?
2. How does the "mirroring" idea help us understand our relationship to God in creation?
3. In Genesis 3, why do you think the serpent begins by questioning God's words instead of attacking outright?
4. How do you see the difference between talking about God (Genesis 3) and talking to God (Genesis 2)?
5. What does it tell us about God's character that, even when the mirror was shattered, He didn't look away from humanity?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Where do you notice creation itself showing signs of brokenness or imbalance?
2. In a world full of fractured mirrors, where have you seen glimpses of real beauty, love, or restoration?
3. What mirrors do we stare into today (social media, work, relationships), and how do they shape who we are?
4. What parallels exist between the serpent's lie, "God is holding out on you," and the way culture shapes us?
5. Everyone experiences broken relationships. How do you see the ripple effects of that brokenness today?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Where in your life do you feel most tempted to "look away" from God as your mirror?
2. When you feel shame, how do you usually respond—hide, cover, blame, or something else?
3. What would it look like for you to rest in God's gaze instead of chasing other mirrors?
4. If God truly says over you, "You're broken but not ugly," how might you begin to believe and live from that?
5. Where in your week do you most clearly see God's beauty reflected to you, and perhaps in you?

LIVE IT OUT: *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5-10 minutes:*

1. Practice and celebrate gratitude this week to "turn your gaze back" toward God and help restore a sense of shalom in your life. That might be as simple as noting your experience in a small one-week gratitude journal.
2. Employ curiosity, confession, and repair: Ask God, "How have I moved outside Your will and how have my relationships been harmed, with You and others?" Confess what the Spirit reveals, and bring whatever repair you're able to bring: an apology, a prayerful repentance, or an act of restitution.

You can find more encouragement on [our series resources page](#).

