

Small Group Study Guide



“Bohemian Rhapsody”

July 21, 2019

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your mercy and forgiveness when we wander far from you. You know how easy it is for us to let pride guide our lives. We start believing how great we are and that we don't need you or others. But we also know from experience that Solomon was right – pride does go before the fall. So Lord, would you help us to stay humble and focus on you and not ourselves. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

4 I took on great projects: I built houses for myself, planted vineyards for myself. 5 I made gardens and parks for myself, planting every kind of fruit tree in them. 6 I made reservoirs for myself to water my lush groves. 7 I acquired male servants and female servants; I even had slaves born in my house. I also had great herds of cattle and sheep, more than any who preceded me in Jerusalem. 8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, the treasures of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers for myself, along with every human luxury, treasure chests galore! 9 So I became far greater than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. Moreover, my wisdom stood by me. 10 I refrained from nothing that my eyes desired. I refused my heart no pleasure. Indeed, my heart found pleasure from the results of my hard work; that was the reward from all my hard work. 11 But when I surveyed all that my hands had done, and what I had worked so hard to achieve, I realized that it was pointless—a chasing after wind. Nothing is to be gained under the sun.

INTRODUCTION

Bohemian Rhapsody is a biographical drama about Freddie Mercury, the lead singer of the British rock band Queen. The band reached unparalleled success in the 1970's but Freddie, surrounded by darker influences, eventually shuns Queen in pursuit of his solo career. Having suffered greatly without the collaboration of Queen, Freddie manages to reunite with his bandmates just in time for Live Aid. While bravely facing a recent AIDS diagnosis, Freddie leads the band in one of the greatest performances in the history of rock music.

INTRODUCTION CONTINUED

Freddie Mercury was the least likely person to be a rock star and in scripture we see God use the least likely people to accomplish his will. Queen describes themselves as misfits welcoming other misfits and scripture tells us Jesus welcomed the outsiders. Freddie let success and fame destroy himself and his relationship with others. Scripture reminds us that pride goes before a fall. With the help of his friend Mary, Freddie gets his life together and reconciles with the band. Jesus tells us if we want to be right with God we need to be right with others first.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Did you see the movie *Bohemian Rhapsody*? If yes, what did you think about the movie? Do you have a favorite Queen song?
- 2) Freddie Mercury had four extra teeth in the back of his mouth, pushing the front ones forward and causing a large overbite. This caused many people to mock him as a child. Freddie didn't seem destined for greatness. To what extent do you think our culture looks at outward appearance as a qualification for leadership instead of someone's heart?
- 3) Queen described themselves like this *"four misfits who don't belong together, playing for other misfits. To the outcasts right at the back of the room who're pretty sure they don't belong either. We belong to them. We are a family with no two as the same."* Under what circumstances are people shunned today? How hard is it for others to reach out to these people who are "different"?
- 4) Like Freddie Mercury, King Solomon let pride lead him down the wrong path. Read the Ecclesiastes 2:4-11 on page 1. This passage is attributed to Solomon. At the end of his life, Solomon realizes that if you are not seeking first the kingdom of God, it's like chasing after the wind. What are some practices that help you seek the kingdom of God first?
- 5) Freddie Mercury once said "The monster is me. Success, fame, money, sex, drugs, whatever you want. I can have it all, but now I am beginning to see that as much as I created it, I want to escape from it. I'm starting to worry that I can't control it as much as it controls me." His friend Mary Austin confronted him about his behavior and told him that he didn't belong with the people he was associating with. This helped Freddie straighten out his life. Have you ever had to confront a friend about a pattern of harmful behavior in his or her life? Did you find it very difficult to do?

FINAL APPLICATION

Is there someone in your life you need to reconcile with? If yes, what is one small step this week to make that happen?