



Boo - Mask & Costumes: *I'm afraid to be real*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 1)

TRADITIONAL MODEL

What was the best Halloween costume you ever wore?

Respond to this statement:

We would love to be known, but we're scared to death of being found out

According to 1Jo 4:18, what drives out fear? What are some other things this verse tells us about fear? How does this verse apply to your current relationships?

What two steps were mentioned in the message that will help us take off our masks? How would those two steps affected your personal well being or relationships in the past? Have the group discuss how the two steps would affect their relationships today.

What does James 5:16 teach us about confession and it's effect? If you applied the simple truth of this verse, how would it change your relationships in your home or your church? What fears arise when you think about living in such a way?

There's another factor to think about when considering removing our masks and being more authentic – the response of those we do so with. Respond to the statement: *People are willing to take off their masks when they feel it's safe to do so.* What could you change about your response to encourage people to be more real around you?

What changes do you need to make in order to be more real with people?

CONTEMPLATIVE MODEL

What are you learning about God from this message?

What are you learning about yourself from the message?

What questions does this message bring up for you?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 2)

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

What is the biggest thing causing you concern these days? (something to pray about)

Leader's Guide: Mask & Costumes: *I'm afraid to be real*

The biggest things I worried about as a kid were quicksand or getting kidnapped, so I was constantly leery of wet-looking sand and strangers. Although neither of them proved to be a real threat, I've since learned there are plenty of other matters to worry me, bigger things, real things. "Boo" is a series about some of those things we are most afraid of and what the Bible says we can do about them.

OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES

Masks & Costumes: I'm afraid to let you see the real me

People have been hiding for a long time:

Gen 3:10 "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

We would love to be known, but we're scared to death of being found out

We disguise because we don't realize the consequences of concealment

▪ **We cannot experience real love**

1Jo 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

▪ **We become prisoners of our own hypocrisy**

Matt 23:25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ...27 You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy



Removing the mask:

1. Be OK with not being perfect – because nobody else is either.

2Co 3:13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away.

Ec 7:20 There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

Ro 3:10 As it is written: “There is no-one righteous, not even one;

1Ti 1:15 Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.

Mr 2:17 Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

2. Leaving the mask on leaves us as we are

▪ Admitting is the first step

Jas 5:16 Therefore **CONFESS YOUR SINS TO EACH OTHER** and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

▪ Admitting moves us toward transformation

Jas 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other **SO THAT you may be healed.**

▪ Admitting allows us to help each other

Jas 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and **PRAY FOR EACH OTHER** so that you may be healed.

1Th 5:11 Therefore **encourage** one another and build each other up.

People are willing to take off their masks when they feel it's safe to do so.

Admission should be greeted by acceptance

Ro 14:1 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

Living as close to heaven on earth as is possible

1Jo 1:7 If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.