

## **Bruce Almighty Assignment**

### **Outcome:**

- 3.2 What's the Point of Prayer?
- Demonstrates an understanding that God's response to prayer does not limit human freedom
  - Expresses different ways that God responds to prayer

### **Assignment:**

Consider the following information and questions:

#### ***SHOW ME A SIGN***

As Bruce complains about his life, he prays to God and asks God to show him a sign. As he is praying, he is passing construction signs that tell him to "Turn Around," or say "Dead End," "Wrong Way," and "Do Not Enter." He ignores them all and crashes his car. His pager beeps a number he refuses to call. When the pager continues to beep after it has been destroyed, he decides to call it, and ends up meeting God in a building called "Omni Presents."

#### **Questions**

- What signs did Bruce see that might have been from God?
- How obvious are the signs God gives to Bruce? How obvious do you think God's signs are in real life?
- Do you think God sends us signs? How?
- Have you ever been through a time in your life when you think you ignored signs, but recognized them later? Why do we miss God's signs?
- How can we recognize God's signs yet avoid thinking something is from God when it isn't?
- Why doesn't God just come out and tell us stuff?

#### ***ANSWERED PRAYERS***

Bruce uses his powers for selfish gain for the first week to please his girlfriend, to get ahead at work, and for revenge. When he encounters God again, God asks about this, and Bruce understands that the annoying voices he keeps hearing are other people's prayers. He has millions of prayers to answer; he tries to find good ways to organize them, and finally develops a Yahweh Website to hold them all. But there are so many that he finally decides just to answer yes to everything.

Through both answering his own prayers (in the first week) and everyone else's later, Bruce learns what kind of damage can be caused when people always get what they want (prompting God to ask, "Since when have humans known what they want?"). Bruce pulls the moon closer to create a mood, and a tsunami happens on the other side of the world. A bunch of people win the lottery; so many that they all only get \$17 each. People's stocks go up and the financial market freaks out. The city's team wins and a riot starts.

## Questions

- What happens when Bruce gives everyone what he or she wants?
- Have you ever prayed for something and not received it? Have you ever discovered later that it was good you didn't get what you wanted?
- How do you recognize an answer to a prayer?
- God also says, "People too often ask me to do things for them that they can do themselves." Do you think this is true? Have you ever prayed to do well on a test? What other prayers might be about things that people could or need to do for themselves?
- Were Bruce's complaints a prayer, in any sense?
- Do you think God wants to hear our complaints to him? Why or why not? What should we pray when we feel discontented or angry?
- What is the relationship between our will and the will of God in prayer? What sorts of things should we ask God for? How do we ask for these things while saying "Your will be done"?

Once you have carefully considered the above questions, create a Facebook profile and newsfeed for both Bruce and God. Use the given template. You will want to create a rough draft first and then type up the good copy.

## Things to consider/include:

- Status updates
- Writing on each other's wall's
- Pictures
- Tagging in pictures
- Consider who would "like" the comments
- A list of their friends (and possibly mutual friends)
- Items must be time stamped appropriately (chronological order – follow the movie)