

Seeing Glory Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one of your favorite natural settings (e.g. beach/ocean, forest, mountains, lake, snow, etc.)?
2. What is one unexpected thing you have experienced in the past month?

Read the following passages: Luke 9:23-36.

Life was hard in the first century. And, as Jesus makes clear in this passage, followers of Jesus could expect additional suffering on top of an already challenging life. How did they keep from being overwhelmed and burning out? Jesus' disciples worked long days, faced opposition from many of the most popular religious leaders, and were regularly bumping into their own shortcomings. How did they persevere?

This passage shows us one of the keys: They saw Jesus' glory. We were made for something transcendent. We were made for God. Nothing else can fuel our souls like the glory of God.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. The "glory of God" may strike us as a somewhat abstract phrase. Describe how Jesus' glory was manifested in Luke 9:28-36. Can you think of other times in the Scriptures when the glory of God was displayed? See, for example, Exodus 24:15-18; 1 Kings 8:10-11; Isaiah 6:1-4; John 2:11; John 11:4, 40; John 12:23-28; John 15:8; Revelation 1:12-18. How would you describe the glory of God?
2. To the teacher in the book of Ecclesiastes, every pleasure and great project began to feel meaningless (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11). The apostle Paul, on the other hand, warns Timothy about barring people from good gifts such as marriage or enjoyable foods (1 Timothy 4:3-5). The primary theme of this discussion guide is that we need God, and should be fueled by his glory. What, then, should be our perspective on the pleasures and projects that are a part of this created world? Is there any relationship between the glory of God and things in this created world? Explain.
3. In many ways, Jesus was a new and greater Moses. The parallels between Moses' experience on the mountain in Exodus 24:12-18 and Jesus' experience with his disciples are significant. For each of the following biblical subjects, discuss how Jesus brought about a fulfillment of an earlier experience or symbol. (In parentheses are some Scriptures in which biblical authors or Jesus himself allude to a fulfillment of some of these themes, even if they are not teased out very far.)
 - The exodus (Luke 9:31; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2)

- The Torah (which means teaching or Law) (Matthew 5:17, 21-22, 27-28; Luke 16:16)
 - The presence of God (John 14:8-9)
 - The Temple (Matthew 12:5-6; John 2:18-25)
 - Covenant (Matthew 26:26-29)
4. Can you think of any times in the past when God has made himself known to you in a conspicuous or memorable way? Explain. Do you ever reflect on these past experiences to encourage you in the present?
 5. What are some ways we can pursue fresh encounters with God's presence and glory?
 6. What is one way you want to seek God this week?

Pray