

This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize God's glory. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: God's Glory

The glory of God is His manifest work, the way He represents His perfect character through His activity. It also refers to His excellent reputation and is given as one of the reasons we are to praise His name. Another sense of the word is the inherent beauty of God, the unbearable brightness and beauty of His being as He radiates His own attributes and characteristics for all to witness. The Scriptures speak of humanity as having "fallen short" of God's glory (Rom. 3:23) because we have rejected the purpose for which God created us—to glorify Him.

1 God's glory is visible in His character.

(Ex. 33:12-23)

- ▶ *If I were to ask you to tell me about your best friend, how would you respond?*

Oftentimes, we include details that go beyond physical attributes when asked to describe someone. We usually describe the person's character as well.

Read Exodus 33:12-23.

- ▶ *What did Moses already know about God?*

Moses knew God was merciful and gracious. He knew God kept His promises and did not lie.

- ▶ *How is God's goodness an expression of His glory?*
- ▶ *What did Moses ask in verse 18?*

According to the *Holman Old Testament Commentary* Moses wanted to physically see God's glory. "Through all his adverse circumstances he grew in his faith and spiritual hunger. He wanted to know more of God's ways so the favor of God would rest not only upon him but on his people as well."

- ▶ *How did God respond?*
- ▶ *Do you want to get to know God better, like Moses did? What are some ways you can do this?*

2 God's glory is visible in His work.

(Ps. 19:1-6)

God's glory is tied not only to His character, but to His work and actions as well. On the board or a large sheet of paper, invite students to list some of the ways creation reveals God's glory.

Read Psalm 19:1-6.

- ▶ *What central message does creation reveal to us about God?*
- Creation declares the truth about God to all people.

Read Ephesians 1:18-23.

- ▶ *How did Christ's work on the cross declare God's glory?*

The *Holman New Testament Commentary* says the power God demonstrated in raising Christ from the dead and placing Him above all creation is the same power He exercised toward us to bring about the blessings which He has promised us.

- ▶ *How is God at work in your life? If you have accepted Christ as your Savior, how does your life declare the glory of God?*

3 God's glory is for our good.

(Isa. 55:1-7)

- ▶ *If you could request an invitation to any event in the world, all expenses paid, what would it be? Why?*

Read Isaiah 55:1-7.

God does not wait for us to invite Him; He invites us to be part of His family now.

- ▶ *According to verse 2, how do you "spend money on what is not food, and your wages on what does not satisfy"?*

People seek pleasure in many things, but God is the only source of true satisfaction.

- ▶ *How does God's glory set Him apart from all the pleasures we tend to seek in life?*

God promises mercy, forgiveness, blessings, and love.

- ▶ *How is God's glory for our good?*

Humanity was created and designed to glorify God. Not only that, but humanity was also designed by God to find ultimate happiness and satisfaction from being in relationship with Him, since He is the greatest treasure in the universe. Seeing His glory and rejoicing in it not only glorifies Him, but also brings lasting satisfaction to our souls.

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *What do you find most remarkable about God? Why?*
- ▶ *How does God's goodness impact your willingness to trust Him as your Savior?*