

This midweek study will explore the biblical doctrine of 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" (Rom. 3:23) of God's glory because we have rejected the purpose for which God created us—to glorify Him.

1 God's glory is the radiance of the fullness of His manifold excellencies, best seen in Jesus' work on the cross (John 1:14; Rom. 9:22-23; Heb. 1:3).

- ▶ How would you define the word glory?
- ▶ How would you define God's glory?
- ▶ Is there anything God ever does that is not for His glory?
- ▶ Are there any of God's attributes that do not contribute to His glory?
- ▶ What is the relationship between God's glory and His attributes?

Read Hebrews 1:3.

- ▶ What is the radiance of God's glory?

Read John 1:14.

- ▶ What does John say the Word is full of?
- ▶ Who is the Son and the Word? What (or who) is the best display of God's glory, of all His magnificent attributes?

2 God's glory is what we reject when we sin—and there is no greater crime (Jer. 2:11-13; Rom. 3:23).

- ▶ Is it worse to commit a crime against a man or a woman? What about a child? A mentally handicapped or disabled person? Even though all crimes are wrong, why do we react more strongly to some crimes committed against some people than against others?
- ▶ Who is the worst person in the world to commit a crime against?

Read Romans 3:23.

- ▶ What does it mean to fall short of the glory of God?

Read Jeremiah 2:11-13.

- ▶ What terrible exchange had Judah made (v. 11)? What did Jeremiah call God?
- ▶ What two evils did the people commit (v. 13)?
- ▶ What does it mean to fall short of the glory of God (v. 13)? How serious is this sin?

- ▶ So, who is the worst person in the world to commit a crime against?
- ▶ What is the worst crime in the world a person could do?

3 God's glory is the one thing that will satisfy human beings for all eternity (Ps. 27:4; John 17:24).

- ▶ If you had one wish in the world, what would it be?
- ▶ Why would you want that wish?

Read Psalm 27:4.

- ▶ What was David's one wish? Do you find his wish surprising? Why or why not?
- ▶ Why do you think David wished for this?

Read John 17:24.

- ▶ What was Jesus' prayer for us? How is this prayer loving toward us?
- ▶ What is the one thing in the world that will satisfy us?
- ▶ What is the relationship between God's glory and our satisfaction?
- ▶ How is God's glory good news for us for all eternity?
- ▶ How can we pursue satisfaction in God's glory this week? Be specific.
- ▶ How can we help others pursue satisfaction in God's glory this week? Be specific.

WRAP IT UP

An "elevator speech" is a short speech you can give to someone on an elevator ride about your work or something you love.

- ▶ What would be your elevator speech for someone about God's glory?