



SMALL GROUP LEADER

Glory

Glory

SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:14 & 2 Corinthians 3:18

Group leaders should:

- **"Set the table" for interaction and group discussion by (4 minutes):**
 - explaining the idea of the week's theme
 - explaining the context of the main passage(s) to be discussed
- **Debrief from weekly reading (8-10 minutes)**
- **Facilitating, Discipling, Guiding, Shepherding (30 minutes)**

Small Group Questions:

- 1. What does glory mean to you?**
- 2. What do you think it would feel like for someone in the Old Testament to be threatened by the glory of God? (Exodus 19:9-21)**
- 3. How is it that we can experience God's glory?**
- 4. When you focus on God's glory revealed to us in Christ, what does that feel like?**
- 5. How do we live changed by God's glory?**

SET THE TABLE

GLORY is everything! When you see God's glory, it transforms you or it destroys you. The glory of God demands extraordinary worship. It brings you to your knees. It drives you to repentance. After beholding the glory of God, you can never be the same.

"Kabod" is the Old Testament word for glory. "Kabod" is a massive and crushing weight. When the glory of God is displayed on earth it is weighty. "Kabod" results in people falling on their faces before God in the fear of the Lord. "Kabod" is catastrophic to everything unholy.

The New Testament word for glory is "doxa" and refers to radiance or light. The glory of God is the radiance of the perfection of all that God is and does. It is an awesome and overwhelming radiance. "Doxa" is the display of His goodness. God has one glory. Yet, in the Old Testament God's glory seems dangerous, and in the New Testament God's glory seems desirable. What has changed? Answer: Jesus

Biblical Overview of Glory

In the OT God's glory is built into creation. Glory is the environment into which Adam and Eve were created. God intended to dwell on the earth with His multiplying worshippers until the world was filled with His glory.

After the Fall, God's glory departs from the earth. After the rescue from Egypt God wants His glory to dwell in the midst of His people. However, they are in no condition to live among the pure glory, so the glory is veiled/hidden from Moses by the cloud on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19:18; 24:15-18) and then by the curtain in the tabernacle (Ex. 40) and temple (2 Chron. 7:1-2). Finally, the prophet Ezekiel sees the glory depart the temple and ascend back into heaven (Ezek. 10). It's an impossible situation. What the people need (God's glory) is there, but they can never reach it.

Following the departure of glory in Ezekiel God's people experience 400 years without glory. It seems there is no glory for God's people on earth! Glory appears to be lost forever!

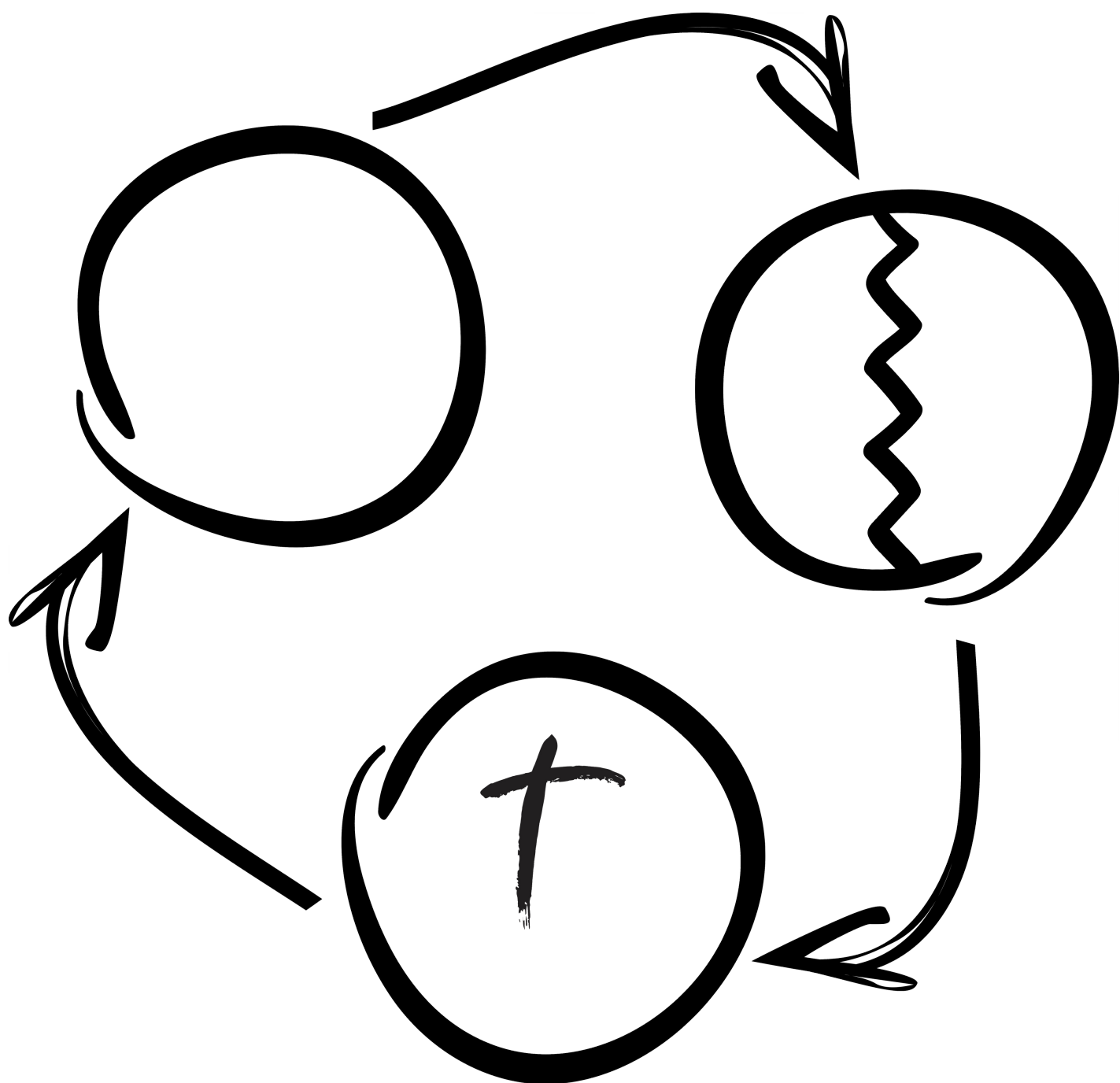
THEN JESUS!!!

John 1:14- "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory..." In Jesus the full glory of God is revealed. The glory of God so unattainable in the Old Testament is completely unveiled in Jesus. The glory of Jesus will never depart!

Today, God's glory is being revealed to the world through God's people, the church. 2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

Revelation 21:22- *"And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb."*

Soon Jesus will return and will with Him bring the new creation. God's glory will be built into that new creation. Glory will be the environment in which all of us live and work. God intends to dwell on the earth with His multiplying worshippers and glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).



Glory - Commentary

This week we wanted to provide small group leaders with an extended version of the Biblical Overview on Glory so each leader feels equipped to guide group discussion.

The glory of God is the most important thing in the world. When you see God's glory, it leaves you transformed or dead. The glory of God demands extraordinary worship. It brings you to your knees. It drives you to repentance. After beholding the glory of God your life is never the same. In the Old Testament the word for glory is "kabod." "Kabod" is a massive and crushing weight. When the glory of God is displayed on earth it is weighty. It results in people falling on their faces before God in the fear of the Lord. It is catastrophic to everything unholy. The New Testament word for glory is "doxa" and refers to light. The glory of God is the radiance of the perfection of all that God is and does. It is an awesome and overwhelming radiance. It is the display of His goodness. The glory of God is redemptive. The glory that destroys in the Old Testament, saves with the arrival of Jesus. As a result of Jesus, all "in Christ" are being transformed from one degree of glory to another. The end of the Bible tells us that our destiny is to live forever with God in a new creation illuminated by the glory of Jesus. The story of the God's glory spans the Bible from the first chapter to the last.

Glory Departed

Eden means "delight." In the garden, God and mankind coexisted in perfect delight. God walked with Adam and Eve in perfect relationship. God's creation and His people were perfectly suited to dwell in His glory. When they rebelled and sinned Adam and Eve forfeited true delight and God's glory departed.

Glory Veiled

God revealed His glory to Israel three times. Each instance shows that man must be separated from the presence of His glory by the veil.

1. Mt. Sinai – In Exodus 19 the glory of God was displayed to Israel at Mt. Sinai. The mountain was covered with thunder and lighting and a thick cloud. God veiled His glory with the cloud to protect the people. No man could see God's glory and live.
2. Tabernacle and Temple- In Exodus 40:34-36 and 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 the glory of the LORD filled the Holy of Holies. In both cases the people are protected from seeing God's full glory by a veil. No man could see God's glory and live.

Glory - Commentary

Glory Departed

Thousands of years later, when Jerusalem was about to be destroyed because of their continued rebellion against God, Ezekiel the prophet receives a vision from the LORD. In the vision the glory of the LORD departed the temple (Ezekiel 10). Israel could not even keep the veiled glory of God. The glory was departed- it was lost!

For 400 years, the time between the OT and New Testament there is no glory for God's people on earth!

Jesus

Glory Revealed

In Jesus the glory of God invades a dark and broken world. John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory..." In Him the full glory of God is revealed to man. The glory of God so dangerous in the Old Testament becomes our salvation in Jesus. The glory of Jesus will never depart!

Transforming Glory

In 2 Corinthians 3:18 Paul explains our experience of glory. The believer is better than Moses who had to cover his face to hide his diminishing glory. Because of the Spirit in us, we behold His glory without fear, and we are being transformed from one degree of glory to the next. As we grow in glory, we image God more and more.

Eternal Glory

Revelation 21 shows us that the new heaven and new earth will be illuminated not with the light of the sun but with the glory of God and the Lamb. Our destiny is to dwell in the presence of the glory of God forever. What was once unapproachable is now all around us. Even so come Lord Jesus!

Biblical Pattern in the Old Testament

Glory Departs

Glory is Veiled

Glory Departs

Biblical Pattern in the New Testament

Glory is Revealed

Glory Transforms

Glory Forever