

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

SMALL GROUP STUDIES 2025



'FOR THE GLORY OF GOD' STUDY GUIDE

WEEK	PASSAGE	THEME
1	Ezekiel 36:22-38	The glory of God
2	John 17	The plan of glory
3	Psalms 73	For the glory of God in our lives
4	John 17	For the glory of God as a gathered community
Page 11	Whole Family Learning (WFL) ideas on the topic of For the Glory of God	

INTRODUCTION

A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE 'FOR THE GLORY OF GOD' STUDY GUIDE

These studies are going to broadly sketch across the Old and New Testament to explore the topic of the glory of God. They serve as a follow on from the material at Church Camp 2025. Some bits you may have covered already, other bits will build on what we learnt. If you haven't already listened to the talks from camp, we encourage you to do that over the next month.

In these studies we will start by exploring what God's glory means and how he has chosen to show that to the world. We will then get a bit more practical and have a look at what it means for our lives to be lived for God's glory as individuals and then as a gathered community.

Our prayer is that as we explore this topic you will have a renewed sense of God's glory, the magnificence of Jesus, and a desire to share this with other people in your life.

WEEK 1 SMALL GROUP STUDY: THE GLORY OF GOD

“Glory”, “glorious”, “to glory in [something]”. How do we use the word/idea of “glory”? What does it make you think of?

God’s glory is two-sided:

1. God revealing his glory to creation (studies 1 & 2)
2. Creation’s response to him, wherein he is given glory out of gratitude for who he is and what he has done (studies 3 & 4)

How do the following passages describe the glory of God?

Depending on the size of your group, it might be good to divide these up and then come back together to share

- Exodus 33:18-34:8
- 1 Kings 8:10-11
- Isaiah 6:1-5
- Ezekiel 1:26-28
- Psalm 104:1-2
- Luke 2:8-14
- Isaiah 42:5-8
- Psalm 24
- Hebrews 1:1-6
- Revelation 4:9-11

What is the basis or foundation of God's glory? For what reasons is God seen as glorious?

What makes God seeking his glory different to when humans seek their own glory?

READ EZEKIEL 36:22-38

What is (and what *isn't*) God's stated motivation for his promised saving actions in this passage?

What are the highlights of God's promised saving acts? (*We will explore this in greater depth in the coming studies, so just an overview here is fine*)

Why is it important that the nations come to know that God is Yahweh (i.e. the LORD)?

What is it about God that makes him worthy of glory? (see also Psalm 24).

BROADER REFLECTION

How would you describe God being worthy of glory to a non-Christian?

SMALL GROUP PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 2 SMALL GROUP STUDY: THE PLAN OF GOD'S GLORY

Imagine you had the opportunity to orchestrate your own reputation. What would you want to be known for? How would you go about building that reputation?

This week we will be building on the concept of God's glory to how God goes about showing his glory to the world. We will be doing this by covering some pretty theologically dense New Testament passages. So, although the study may seem short, it may take some time to get through.

READ ROMANS 1:21-25; 3:10-18

What happened to the notion of glory when sin entered the world?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 3:7-4:6

Use the following table to list the key points of comparison and contrast between the two glorious ministries described in this passage:

The Ministry of Moses	The Apostolic ministry of the gospel

Where is true and lasting glory now to be found? In what sense is this a "Ministry of the Spirit" (verse 8)?

READ JOHN 17

Jesus' prayer to his Father in John 17 can be divided up into 3 different parts:

1. Jesus prays for himself – verses 1-5
2. Jesus prays for his disciples – verses 6-19
3. Jesus prays for the church – verses 20-26

What does Jesus ask of the Father for himself? How is this to happen? (verses 1-5)

What does Jesus pray for the church? What is the purpose of this request? (see verses 20-26)

BROADER REFLECTION

Is “the glory of God” a good thing for humanity? Is it good news that God seeks his own glory? How might you explain this to a person who isn't familiar with church-language of “glory”?

As you consider God's plan to bring glory to himself, what is it that strikes you as most surprising, interesting, or magnificent?

SMALL GROUP PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 3 SMALL GROUP STUDY: FOR THE GLORY OF GOD IN OUR LIVES

How do you usually react when you experience something that amazes you or when you do something that you especially enjoy?

In the next two studies we move our focus from glory as part of God's character and plan, to the concept of creation (including humans) giving glory to God. This week we will be getting a bit more practical and considering what it means for us to live our lives for the glory of God. If you have been in Christian circles for a while, you have probably heard the phrase or recited the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

Q: What is the chief and highest end of man?

A: To glorify God and to enjoy him forever

But what does this actually mean? And what does it look like in the day-to-day life of Christians to live for the glory of God?

Read the following passages and discuss the relationship between giving glory to God and how we live. *Depending on the size of your group, it might be good to divide these up and then come back together to share*

- Psalm 86

- Romans 11:33-12:2

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1

- 2 Corinthians 3:18

How would you summarise the characteristics/actions/traits of a life devoted to giving glory to God?

READ PSALM 73

How would you summarise the journey that the Psalmist has experienced?

What conclusion does he come eventually reach? How does his life look/feel by the end of his journey?

BROADER REFLECTION

When you consider all that we have discussed so far in these studies, how would you summarise the Christian life?

How does a life lived giving glory to God look different to a life trying to bring glory to yourself (or to some other 'idol')?

What is the hope and freedom available to those who live their lives for God's glory? (see Romans 8:28-30)

Is God the thing in your life that amazes you and that you enjoy the most? Why or why not? Are there any changes that you need to make in light of this?

SMALL GROUP PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 4 SMALL GROUP STUDY: FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AS A GATHERED COMMUNITY

When we gather for church on Sundays, we do many things. What would you say is the core purpose(s) of gathering together as Christians?

As we touched on in the second study, part of God's plan for his glory at this point in history is to show it through the church. How does this actually happen? How can the community of believers show God's glory? To discuss this, we will return to Jesus' prayer in John 17.

READ JOHN 17

What has Jesus given his believers? For what purpose? (see verses 21-23)

How does the unity of believers serve to give glory to God?

How is God's love described in this passage?

What is the connection between God's love and glory in this passage (see also John 13:31-35)?

How do our Sunday gatherings at Summerleas serve to point people to Jesus?
What role do you have in this?

How can the way we interact as a church community during the week (e.g. in small group, but more-broadly, too) serve to give glory to God?

SMALL GROUP PRAYER POINTS

WHOLE FAMILY LEARNING (WFL) IDEAS

1. Choose one of the topics from '*The Ology*' by Marty Machowski on 'The Character of God' on pages 11-30.
 - a. Read through it together and pick some of the bible passages to read out and discuss.
 - b. Pray for one another

2. Read a Psalm together that speaks of God's glory. Some suggestions are:
 - Psalm 19
 - Psalm 33
 - Psalm 47
 - Psalm 92
 - Psalm 113
 - Psalm 115
 - Psalm 136
 - Psalm 145

You could do this in a number of ways:

- I. Take turns in reading the passage.
- II. Whilst an adult slowly reads the passage (maybe a couple of times), draw some of the imagery that is described.
- III. Write down the ways that God is described
- IV. Print a copy of the passage and with some coloured pens get them to highlight/underline bits they like or have questions about.
- V. A combination of all of those ☺

Chat about what the Psalm says about God's glory and then spend some time praising God in prayer together.

3. Read 'We gather to worship' from '*The Ology*' by Marty Machowski on pages 187-190.
 - a. Read through it together and pick some of the bible passages to read out and discuss.
 - b. Pray for one another

SUMMERLEAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION PARTNERS



FELLOWSHIP OF OVERSEAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (FOCUS) & SUBBIES

FOCUS and Subbies are Christian international student societies that seeks to share the good news of Jesus with International students at the University of Hobart.

How Summerleas can help:

- Go along to Friday Night FOCUS and/or cook for them or go along to Subbies
 What: FREE food, fun, friendship and teaching from the Bible.
 When: FOCUS: Fridays 6.00–8.30pm (if your Small Group is bringing food please bring it at 5:30pm) or Subbies: Tuesdays 7:00-8:30pm for Subbies
 Where: Wellspring Anglican Church Building
- Pray:
 - Pray that we will be keen to support this strategic ministry and that it would grow us in our passion for God's great mission!
 - Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to reach the nations.
 - Pray for the leadership teams that they will speak the truth in love.
 - Pray that God will be working in the hearts of those who come along to hear and understand that Jesus is their Lord and Saviour

THE DURDIN FAMILY



Marc and Joey Durdin are another one of our mission partners at Summerleas Church. Marc is the developer of Keyman software which helps translate writing into native languages. Joey is a midwife who provides support and education to women in many ways. They are currently living in Cambodia.

- Pray:
 - That they would be a light pointing to Jesus to the people around them in Cambodia. That they will be bold to proclaim Christ and show his love to the people in their lives.
 - Pray for Marc as he continues with the keyman project. Pray for good working relationships with his team and that this software will continue to enable God's word to go out to the world.
 - Pray for Joey as she continues to educate and support women.
 - Pray that God would provide for all their needs financially and that new supporters will come on board with them.

