

Week 5 - Soli Deo Gloria

Glory To God Alone

Learning Objectives

- Understand, in a more comprehensive way, how all glory goes to God and only God.
- Examine how the glory of God is fulfilled through Jesus and how we should act in response.

Pray for your time together as a group.

Defining “Glory”

Read Out Loud:

“The glory of God is the radiance of the essence and brightness of all of His character displayed throughout the universe.” A helpful illustration is a light bulb. The light bulb itself would be like God, but the light that emanates from it is like the glory. So, the glory of God is the essence and the awesomeness that is displayed of all that is God. It isn't God, but it's what radiates from him.” – Steve Treichler

? What stands out about this definition? Does it change the way you think about the glory of God?

? Considering this definition, what does it look like to glorify something?

Possible Answers: In short, to acknowledge something's greatness. When we glorify God we dignify, honor, praise, and worship Him. We can do this with things that aren't God as well.

? What things are you tempted to glorify in your life? (Note: these can be good things.)

Possible Answers: Entertainment, nature, relationships, work, comfort, etc.?

To God Goes All Glory

Read Out Loud: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 (NIV)

¹⁰ David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

“Praise be to you, LORD,
the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

¹¹ Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.

¹² Wealth and honor come from you;

you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.
¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.

? How does 1 Chronicles talk about God's glory?

Possible Answers: This text lists the attributes of God's everlasting nature, his greatness, power, majesty and splendor, honor. It describes the vastness of his character and who he is.

? According to the Chronicler, why does God deserve all honor and glory?

Possible Answers: Because everything from Earth is His. He's the creator, ruler, and owner of all things.

? David praised God for who He is, and acknowledged His glory. How do you find it hard to do this in your daily life? What gets in the way or inhibits you from giving God praise?

Possible Answers: We get distracted from God's glory by our daily lives, which are filled with thoughts about our job, car, entertainment, difficult circumstances, busyness, laziness. There are so many things in the world that fight for our time, and when we allow them to take too much, we lose our focus. It's hard to cut out these distractions entirely, but we should realize that they can distract us and try to keep them in check.

? How can we shift our attitude towards giving God glory when we find ourselves giving glory to other things or people?

Possible Answers: Get to know the character of God and the attributes of Him. Be obedient to the work that God has called us to do. To make known who God is. Declare his glory to all. Praising him and proclaiming his salvation.

Glorifying God In Our Lives

Read Out Loud: Psalm 96: 1-6 (NIV)

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;

 sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² Sing to the LORD, praise his name;

 proclaim his salvation day after day.

³ Declare his glory among the nations,

 his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;

 he is to be feared above all gods.

⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,

but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Read Out Loud: John 17:1-5 (NIV)

¹After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

? How does Jesus provide an example for how to glorify God?

Possible Answers: Jesus fulfilled the work his Father had sent him to do. He was obedient to God and made disciples who knew the only true God. He exemplified who God is. Additionally, in verse 1, Jesus is asking for God to be glorified through him – he is the vessel for God’s glorification, meaning we are to be vessels.

? How did Jesus’ work on the cross glorify the Father, and how can we model Jesus in our daily lives?

Possible Answers: Jesus revealed God’s faithfulness to care for those who are unworthy. His inclination for salvation in his creation. We no longer receive the punishment for sin and are seen blameless because of Jesus dying for our sins. We should model that by dying to our own desires and living for God and loving others above ourselves.

? How do you inadvertently try to bypass the cross for salvation – maybe even in ways that are not inherently bad? How does this rob God of the glory he is due?

Possible Answers: When we focus too much on morality or are tempted to believe that our good deeds save us, we fail to proclaim that it is by God’s grace that we have been made right with Him. God deserves all glory, but when we give great importance to other things, He seems less significant in our lives.

? What are some moments in your life where you have clearly seen God glory?

For Discussion and Accountability

? What is distracting you from giving glory only to God? What practical steps can I take this week to turn away from those things?