

Glimpsing the Glory of God: a study series for fellowship groups

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The Christian life is about building relationships, rather than about adopting roles, and this series of studies is about coming to know God better and having a deeper relationship with him.

(1) Glimpsing God's Glory in Creation

Q 1 What striking experiences have members of the group had of the beauty of creation ?



At the time of writing, the 2001 Mars Odyssey is on its way to the red planet as part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program. It is due to arrive in August 2004 to begin looking for hydrogen and certain minerals, and to measure radiation. On 27th August 2003 Mars was the closest to us that it's been in 60,000 years and many of us went out at night in the days which followed to see it for ourselves – about the size of a tennis ball 500 metres away! Have you ever been out into the country, away from city lights and seen all the stars there are to see on a clear night – about 2000 with the naked

eye, 50,000 with binoculars and hundreds of thousands with a decent telescope. Light travels at 186,000 miles a second, but takes 100,000 years to reach us from the furthest point in our own galaxy (the Milky Way) and yet this is only one of many, many galaxies in a universe that some have suggested spreads out 10 billion light-years into space! Amazing that God is interested in relationships with those he has created, as the Psalmist says: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him? (Ps 8:3-4)"



Read Psalm 19:1-6 Eugene Peterson in his Bible translation "*The Message*" renders verses 1,2 in this way: "God's glory is on tour in the skies, God-craft on exhibit across the horizon".

Q 2 We may think of outer space as cold and silent, but in what ways are the heavens filled with speech and with knowledge, and what is their message to us?

Q 3 In what specific ways do you see God's glory and artistry in creation?

Read Romans 1:18-20,25 Paul says that the very things which God has created point to him as creator and is a witness against those who refuse to believe. They are 'without excuse' (v.20).

Q 4 What should the creation reveal to those who are not Christians?

Q 5 In what ways is the sun a supreme symbol of God's glory and presence?

Next study: (2) Glimpsing God's Glory in his Word (Psalm 19:7-14)