

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.

(5) Glimpsing God's Glory in declaration

Q 1 There are times when we can't wait to get home or meet with our friends to tell them what's been happening in our lives. What good experiences over the last year can members of the group remember telling their friends or members of their family about? How was our news received?

Q 2 Sometimes there is bad news in our lives as well. Are there any instances of having to share bad news with friends or relatives that group members are able to tell the group about? If so, what difficulties were there in doing so, and how was the news received?

Read 1 Chron 16:11-13; 23-29; 34-36 This passage is remarkable for the vision given to the writer for the global need to hear about the glory of God, given that this is an Old testament passage. "Declare his glory among the nations" he says (v.24; see also v.28).

Q 3 Can we cope, or could we cope with being a part of worship in a culturally diverse group, or in a group very different culturally from our own? Discuss this.

The psalmist makes mention of quite a number of different ways in which we can bring our worship to God, apart from what we often associate with worship: singing (v.23)

Q 4 What other things can members of the group find listed in the passage, that might be an aid to worship? Discuss which of these, firstly in public, then in private, are part of our normal worship, and try to explain the findings.

Q 5 David uses the words splendour, majesty, strength, joy and holiness (vv.27-28) in relation to God. What do each of these words tell us about the nature of God?

If we *read also vv.14-22; 30-33* in conjunction with the passage already read, we can find six things in all which we ought to want to declare "to the nations":

- God's works of power (vv.11-13; 23-26)
- God's faithfulness (vv.14-18)
- God's protection (vv.19-22)
- God's uniqueness (vv.27-29)
- God's authority (vv.30-33)
- God's love in salvation (vv.34-36)

Q 3 Returning to the ideas raised in the first two questions, when God does something special in our lives, it is often the last thing we share with friends and relatives who are not Christians. Why is that so? Is it bad news? Is there an area here that we can work on, or pray about?

It will be helpful to spend time praying about areas in our lives where we can witness more confidently. Let's start declaring his glory among the nations!

Next study: (6) Glimpsing God's Glory shown to us in His Son (Matt. 17:1-13)