

GLORY

History is full of the stories of people who have pursued glory and fame only to be disappointed. You will notice in this section that the word “glory” is used a lot. The dictionary says that glory means “high renown or honor won by notable achievements.” This definition can definitely be applied to God as the One who is most worthy of glory and the only One who has made God-sized achievements in our world. I want you to add to that a working definition of glory. When I read the word glory in the Bible, it always seems to be in times where the power and presence of God are being fully seen. God is declaring Himself to the world through all that He created, through His Word, and most accurately in the living Word: Jesus.

I hope this helps you see what God wants to do in our lives and what God is doing in this chapter. Before you begin, ask God to be “glorified” in your life by allowing others to see Him in you and His power at work in your life. Some are probably already beginning to notice! Join Third Day in worshipping our “King of Glory” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aqo-adRyM_k)

John 17:1-5 ¹Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ²even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

- 1) After saying many different times that “His hour had not yet come” (e.g., John 7:6), today Jesus says the hour has come! It’s finally “go time”. How would you now explain what Jesus’ hour really is?

- 2) Using the working definition of glory mentioned above, Jesus is asking the Father to demonstrate His power and presence in Him (glorify your Son) so that the Son may demonstrate His power and presence to the world. What are a few ways that God had had already demonstrated His glory in Jesus’ life?

- 3) Where do you see God’s glory (His power and presence) being revealed in Jesus’ path going forward as He is arrested, tried, beaten, crucified, and finally rising from the dead?

- 4) How does verse 3 define what “eternal life” is? Explain what this means. Based on this definition, how would someone know they have eternal life?

John 17:6-8⁶*“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; ⁸for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.”*

- 5) No one has ever seen God the Father. One aspect of Jesus’ mission was to allow us to see the Father through His life. He declared in John 14:9 “Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father”. From this, we know that the way that Jesus acted and the things that He spoke were the same way the Father speaks and acts. What are some things that Jesus did and said that you can now apply to being true about the Father as well?
- 6) Seeing Jesus’ power over sickness, death, wind and waves, was to help them know that Jesus was God. Not only did they get to see the Father’s likeness in Jesus, they saw the power which helped them believe that Jesus was the Messiah, sent by the Father. Look now at Isaiah 9:6 - how does this show the connection between Jesus and the Father?
“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
- 7) Those who knew the Scriptures would have been able to start to perceive its fulfillment right in front of their eyes. If you were one of them and you now fully believed Jesus was the promised Messiah, how would you now feel and what would you be motivated to do?

John 17:9-12⁹*“I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; ¹⁰and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. ¹²While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”*

- 8) In verse 11, Jesus' first request of the Father was to "keep them in Your name" that they be one even as We are one. In verse 12, Jesus says that He was keeping them, He guarded them, and not one of them perished (except for Judas). What do you think it means to "keep"?
- 9) The result of "keeping" His followers was to allow them to have the same one-ness as the trinity does itself. That is an amazing statement and prayer request. What would our Youth ministry look like and what could it accomplish if we were unified as one, as God is?

John 17:13-19¹³*"But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth."*

- 10) Jesus has just asked the Father to keep His followers safe from the evil one and for Him to allow them to experience unity. His goal for us, even living in the hostility we will face in this world, is for us to have His joy be made full in us. It would have been easier for Jesus to keep them safe by removing them out of the world. If God did that, what would they have missed out on in terms of experiencing joy and in glorifying God (demonstrating His power and presence)?
- 11) The word "sanctify" means to set something apart for sacred use by God. It also involves the process of sanctification where God is purifying our lives. Jesus asks the Father to sanctify them (and us) by His word, which is pure truth. A really good video that explains sanctification can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEmPy9RdoAA>. Write down all key points it gives as you watch it.

12) Would you say you are sanctified? Explain your answer.

13) Can you see the hand of God in your life purifying you? List a few examples.

14) God sent Jesus into the world to do what?

15) How is God sending you into the world in the same way that He sent Jesus into the world?

John 17:20-26 ²⁰*"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²²The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ²⁴Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵"O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

16) How does verse 20 speak about us as believers who are alive today?

17) Jesus makes clear that He is praying for us to experience the same unity He asked for His followers then. What does He say our unity can accomplish? (v. 21)

18) In verse 24, Jesus asks the Father for His followers to “be with Me where I am so they may see My glory.” This will be fully true in eternity when we will dwell with Him without any sin. It can also happen now when we abide in Him and He is able to bear much fruit in our lives. What are a few aspects of your life where you would like God’s power and presence seen?

Close out your time in the word today by thanking God for allowing you to know and experience His love. Ask God to put a few people on your heart that you already know but who don’t yet know Jesus. Write their names below. Ask Him to sanctify you in ways that will allow your friends to see Jesus. Pray and ask Him for opportunities to talk with them about Him. When you do... you will be “standing in the Gap”!

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20