



Glory in the Highest – Longing for His Glory Pastor Tosha Zwanziger 12.08.2024

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Luke 2:13-16, ESV]

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

[Hebrews 1:3]

"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature."

"Glory: It is who God is. It is the essence of His nature; the weight of His importance; the radiance of His splendor; the demonstration of His power; the atmosphere of His presence". – Rick Warren

1. We were CREATED to live in the GLORY of God!

"The deepest longing of the human heart is to know and enjoy the glory of God. We were made for this." – John Piper

[Luke 2:25-32, ESV]

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

The term "glory" in Greek is "doxa" (δόξα), which can denote honor, splendor, or divine radiance. In the context of John's Gospel, it often refers to the manifestation of God's presence and character. This glory is not merely a future promise but a present reality that Jesus has bestowed upon His disciples. It is a transformative glory that enables believers to reflect God's nature and character in their lives. - Strong's Lexicon

2. His Glory comes where He's Welcome.

Luke 2:36-38 (NLT)

Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

Key Points

1. We were created to live in the Glory of God.
2. His Glory comes where He's welcome.

Applications for the Week:

The sermon emphasizes the importance of longing for the person of Jesus rather than just emotional experiences. How can you shift your focus to deepen your relationship with Jesus this week?

Discussion Questions:

1. **Reflect on a time when you felt a deep connection with God during worship. What specific actions or attitudes helped you experience His presence?**
2. **In Luke 2:13-20, what was the shepherds' initial reaction to the appearance of the heavenly host, and how did they respond to the message they received?**
3. **How does the sermon suggest that the glory of God is more than just a historical event, but a present reality we can experience?**
4. **Simeon and Anna were described as longing and waiting for God's glory. How can you cultivate a similar longing in your daily life? What practical steps can you take to position yourself to welcome God's presence?**
5. **What does the sermon imply about the importance of positioning oneself to welcome God's glory, as seen in the lives of Simeon and Anna?**
6. **The sermon mentions that God's glory is available to all who seek it with a sincere heart. What might be hindering you from seeking His glory more earnestly, and how can you address these obstacles?**
7. **How does the sermon describe the relationship between longing for God's glory and experiencing transformation in our lives?**
8. **The sermon challenges us to not be indifferent to God's glory. What are some signs of indifference in your spiritual life, and how can you actively combat them?**
9. **Consider the story of the shepherds in Luke 2. How can you be more like them in recognizing and responding to God's glory in unexpected places or situations?**