

ECC Growth Groups – Term 4, 2014
Behold our God – Study 3: God is Glorious (Exodus 33-34)

What are some things that we might describe as being “glorious”?

or

Split your group into pairs/triplets. Provide each sub-group with a sheet of paper and some coloured pencils/crayons/textas. Instruct each group to draw things that come to mind when they hear the word “glorious”.

Spend some time praying together before you look at God’s Word.

Our main Bible passages for this study come from towards the end of the Old Testament book of Exodus. To set the scene, God has rescued his people from slavery in Egypt through the event of the exodus (Chapter 12). He is in the process of leading and guiding his rescued people to the Promised Land. Along the way he has brought them to Mt Sinai to instruct them in how they are to live as his rescued people (Chapter 19). Despite God’s constant and gracious provision, the Israelites have shown themselves to be a discontent and rebellious people, culminating in the incident of the Golden Calf (Chapter 32).

Read Exodus 33:12-23.

What is Moses’ request in verse 18?

What are some of the different ways in which God *could* have shown Moses his glory?

What is interesting about God’s response in verse 19?

Why do you think God places a restriction on his display of glory?

Read Exodus 34:1-8 and 34:29-35.

In verses 5-7 God makes good on his earlier promise to show Moses his glory. How does he do that?

What effect does this display of glory have on Moses?

What other effect is emphasised at the end of the chapter?

How have these passages challenged you to think differently about God's glory?

Split your group into three smaller groups. Have them reflect on one of the following three passages and the related questions.

Group 1 – John 1:14, 18

Read John 1:14 and John 1:18. What is John's claim concerning Jesus? Why is this so significant, given what we have seen from Exodus?

Group 2 – John 14:8-9

Last week in Study 2 we read some of Jesus' words in John 14. Have a look again at John 14:8-9. Given what we have seen from Exodus, what is so significant about what Jesus says here?

Group 3 – Hebrews 1:1-4

Read Hebrews 1:1-4. How is the Son, Jesus, spoken of in these verses? What is the significance of what is said here, given what we have seen in Exodus?

Bring the groups back together to briefly share with each other what they discovered.

Sometimes as Christians we can look at spectacular passages like Exodus 33-34 and feel like we have missed out. Together, read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18. How does this passage speak into those feelings?

See Appendix 2 – 'Theology to Doxology' and then close the study with a time of prayer.

Appendix 1

Group 1 – John 1:14, 18

Read John 1:14 and John 1:18.

What is John's claim concerning Jesus?

Why is this so significant, given what we have seen from Exodus?

Group 2 – John 14:8-9

Last week in Study 2 we read some of Jesus' words in John 14. Have a look again at John 14:8-9.

Given what we have seen from Exodus, what is so significant about what Jesus says here?

Group 3 – Hebrews 1:1-4

Read Hebrews 1:1-4.

How is the Son, Jesus, spoken of in these verses?

What is the significance of what is said here, given what we have seen in Exodus?

Appendix 2 – Theology to Doxology

For our *'Theology to Doxology'* in this study, Geoff Bullock's song *'Oh the mercy of God'* has been selected. If you would like to listen to a version online, you can use the URL below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZXI2Iw502A>

If you would like to sing together or simply read out the lyrics, they are included below:

Verse 1

Oh the mercy of God, The glory of grace
That You chose to redeem us, To forgive and restore
And You call us Your children, Chosen in Him
To be holy and blameless, To the glory of God

Chorus

To the praise of His glorious grace
To the praise of His glory and power
To Him be all glory, honour and praise
Forever and ever and ever, Amen

Verse 2

Oh the richness of grace, The depths of His love
In Him is redemption, The forgiveness of sin
You called us as righteous, Predestined in Him
For the praise of His glory, Included in Christ

Chorus

Verse 3

Oh the glory of God, Expressed in His Son
His image and likeness, Revealed to us all
The plan of the ages, Completed in Christ
That we be presented, Perfected in Him

Chorus

CCLI Song # 1930937

Geoff Bullock

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