

Gathering

GLORY

At Christmastime, one way we think of glory in association with the fantastical shining light of the angel that appeared to the shepherds in Luke 2. The shepherds can't help but be terrified at the grand and awe-inspiring sight of the angel that brought the message of Jesus' birth. But then the sky was filled with a host of angels singing their praises to God for the joyous moment of salvation that had finally come. It was a magnificent sight, and the shepherds were overwhelmed as God's glory was revealed to them!

We hope and pray for these moments, for the glory of the Lord revealed to us in great and wonderful ways. These are the moments that we share with others in our testimonies – I can imagine the shepherds excitedly telling everyone about the glorious sight of the angels!

When we keep reading further in Luke 2, past the encounter with the angels, the next appearance of the Lord's glory is recorded in quite a different way. After the baby Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple. Simeon, described as a righteous and devout man, took the baby Jesus into his arms. There was no heavenly angel choir, no shining light, nothing to cause fear and trembling; however, in this little baby Simeon recognized what most others never would have seen. Simeon immediately gave praise to God because he had seen in this child the ultimate demonstration of the Glory of God.

During this Christmas season, may our eyes, too, be just as open to seeing the glory of God revealed to us in the subtler ways. Read together these verses from Luke 2:30-32 and answer the following questions to reflect on God's glory. *"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."*

After sharing the Scripture, use at least three of the questions on the following page with your group.

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.

Luke 2:30-32

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What does the word "glory"
mean to you?

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Do we often perceive the **glory** of
God in the more subtle or unexpected
ways? In the humblest of circumstances?

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What are examples of God's **glory**
revealed to us in ways that are less
obvious than an angel choir singing
praises to **God**?

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How has God's **glory**
been revealed to you this season?

“For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight
of all nations: a light for revelation
to the Gentiles, and the glory of your
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Luke 2:30-32



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Ask God to reveal His glory to you as you spend time doing one or more of the following activities:

Look at images of snowflakes, take a walk in nature, or watch a sunrise or sunset.

“And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.’”

Isaiah 6:3

Share a cup of coffee with a friend, do a service project at your church, sing Christmas carols and hymns around your neighborhood.

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

Romans 8:17

Read through Scriptures about the birth of Jesus: Matthew 1:18-2:23, Luke 1:28-56, Luke 2:1-40.

“Then is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”

Hebrews 1:3



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