



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: THE PRAYER

The Prayer of Jesus (John 17:8-23)

Small Group Guide: Experiencing God's Glory

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus desires for His followers to be with Him in heaven to experience His full glory.
2. The glory of God is presented as the ultimate prize and focus of heaven.
3. Our earthly desires and phases of life can distract us from longing for God's glory.
4. Jesus' prayer includes all believers, regardless of background or past sins.
5. The Lord's Supper reminds us of Christ's sacrifice that makes experiencing God's glory possible.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the idea of experiencing God's full glory in heaven impact your perspective on eternity?
2. The sermon mentions several biblical figures who encountered God's glory (Moses, Elijah, Stephen). How do these accounts shape your understanding of God's glory?
3. Have you ever struggled with wanting Jesus to delay His return so you could experience certain life events? How does this reflect on our priorities?
4. How does the inclusive nature of Jesus' prayer (for all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages) challenge or encourage you?
5. In what ways might we be holding onto sin with one hand while trying to grasp God's forgiveness with the other? Why is this problematic?

6. How does the Lord's Supper connect to our future hope of experiencing God's glory in heaven?

Practical Applications:

1. Take time this week to reflect on areas of your life where you might be prioritizing earthly experiences over longing for God's glory. Pray for a shift in perspective.
2. Practice gratitude daily for Christ's sacrifice that makes it possible for us to experience God's presence and glory.
3. Identify one way you can intentionally focus on God's glory in your daily life (e.g., through worship, studying Scripture, or serving others).
4. Before participating in the next Lord's Supper, spend time in prayer and self-examination, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas of sin or distraction in your life.
5. Share with the group next week how focusing on God's glory has impacted your thoughts, actions, or relationships over the past seven days.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the incredible promise that we will one day experience Your full glory in heaven. Help us to long for that day and to live in light of that hope. Forgive us for the times we prioritize earthly desires over Your glory. Transform our hearts to seek You above all else. In Jesus' name, Amen.