

MISSION ESSENTIALS

4 Bible studies to help
your small group discover
God's character and his
purposes for the world



Study 1. Characteristics of God: God's glory among all nations

*God's glory as the ultimate
end and purpose of mission*





Getting started:

When we talk about God's glory –
what does it make you think of?





Question 1

Read Revelation 1:12-17: “I turned round to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash round his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire...





...His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.'"





Revelation 1:12-17 describes what happened when the apostle John saw the risen Jesus.

- What do you notice about what Jesus looked like?
- How did John respond?
- What do you think John thought and felt at that moment?
- Even though John was one of Jesus' best friends, he still reacted as he did. Why?





Question 2

Read 1 Chronicles 16:25-27: “For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place.”





Read 1 Timothy 6:15-16: “...which God will bring about in his own time – God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might for ever. Amen.”





How do **1 Chronicles 16:25-27** and
1 Timothy 6:15-16 describe God?





Question 3

Read Psalm 47:7-8: “For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.”

Read Psalm 46:10: “He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’”





In **Psalm 47:7-8** and **Psalm 46:10**
what do you think the link is
between God's glory and the
nations and how should God's
glory be demonstrated?





Question 4

Read Philippians 2:10-11: “...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”





Read Revelation 7:9-10: “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’”





In **Philippians 2:10-11** and **Revelation 7:9-10** what is the final outcome for the world? What happens when the whole world acknowledges Jesus as Lord?





Making it real: The Mwani follow ‘folk’ Islam; Islam is a veneer over their traditional beliefs that revolve around fear of the spirit world. There are about seventy followers of Christ spread across a number of small villages and towns. Over the last twenty-five years, God has inspired many churches to send their workers to work with a handful of mission agencies, including AIM, to seek to reach the Mwani with the gospel; but the going has been very tough.





The Mwani are an example of a whole people group that do not yet know Jesus (we call them unreached people groups) but one day there will be Mwanis before the great white throne, and they too will declare “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Spend some time praying for the Mwani and any work your church is already involved with among unreached peoples.





Bringing it home:

The Apostle John had an amazing vision of the risen Christ. The splendour of Jesus' glory made him fall at Jesus' feet in awe and surrender. Not many of us have seen a vision of God like John. As a result, we are often tempted to make God 'in our own image'. We project our understanding of our world and ourselves onto God. "I am like this so therefore God is like this."





Discuss this idea in your group.

- a. Do we do that?
- b. What effect does it have on the way we see God and, as a result, how we live out our lives?
- c. Try to list some practical things we can do to get a better, God-shaped understanding of our glorious God.
- d. Encourage your group to keep each other accountable throughout the week for the things they have decided to do.



For resources to help you
think more about God's heart
to reach the lost in your
personal prayer time, visit:
eu.aimint.org/resources

