

TALK IT OVER

Glory for Everyone!

Christmas Is for Everyone - Part 3

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Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

Message Notes

1. You're Hardwired for Glory

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"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' 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!'" Luke 2:8-14 (ESV)

Question 1

In Luke 2:14 above, the angels declared, "Glory to God..., and peace on earth." Glory not only defines who God is, it also defines what we're hardwired for! Our hearts are grabbed by the glorious signs in creation—a sunset, a hummingbird, a song. But according to the verses above, how did the angels begin to reveal God's glory that can only be found in Jesus Christ?

2. Your Life Is One Big Glory War

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Question 2

Jesus knew that because of the entrance of sin in the world, life was a glory war. All creation is meant to be a finger pointing us to ultimate glory, the only glory that can ever satisfy the human heart, the glory of God. How have you found your life to be a glory war between the created world and the peace, joy, and hope that is only to be found in God?

3. The Angels' Glory Song Gets to the Heart of the Christmas Story

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"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised." 2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (ESV)

Question 3

The passage above says that Jesus came so that *"those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised."* The Son of God left the splendor of heaven and came into the brokenness of this world. After he began his ministry, he never had a home of his own. He was despised and rejected, condemned in an unjust trial, tortured and hung on a cross, and his body was placed in a borrowed tomb. Are you thinking about living for God's glory in all the little decisions you make each day? In light of what Christ has done for you, how can you live more for God's glory?

4. The Good News: Jesus Is Glory Come to Earth

Question 4

God intentionally placed us in a world jam-packed with glory. From trees to flowers to mountains; from mashed potatoes to steak to lemonade; from thunderstorms to sunsets to snowfalls - all of these things were designed by God to tingle our glory sensors. But, it's important to understand that every created glory is meant by God to function as a spiritual GPS that points us to the only glory that will ever satisfy our hearts. Share with your group a moment or experience of the physical glory around you and how it pointed you to a deeper understanding of God's true glory.

Question 5

Imagine taking a family vacation to Disney World, and 100 miles out, you spot a sign on the side of the road with the logo and name of the resort. It would be silly to stop at the sign and have your family vacation on the side of the road! So it is with the glory of God in creation – it's only a sign, directing you to the source. Don't stop at the sign. Where in creation are you looking to satisfy the glory hunger that only God can satisfy?

Question 6

Jesus came down from heaven to reveal God's glory and to liberate us from our bondage to self-glory. Through his sinless life and death on our behalf, he created a pathway to eternal peace with God. What created things have you found to be ultimately unsatisfying? How can you open your heart today to the truly satisfying glory of Jesus Christ and the abiding presence of his Holy Spirit in your life?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Action Steps

1. Tell Pastor Rick about your spiritual decision today! Text NEWSTART (one word) to 83000 or email NEWSTART@saddleback.com for free spiritual growth resources.
2. Join one of our many small groups for support! Text SMALLGROUP (one word) to 83000 or email SMALLGROUP@saddleback.com.
3. Express your gratitude to God by giving Him your offering online at <https://saddleback.com/GIVE>. Your gifts are feeding thousands of out-of-work families.
4. Be baptized! Email BAPTISM@saddleback.com.

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