

Week 1: Understanding the Passion of God

Key Verses:

"I am the Lord! That is my name. I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols." (Isaiah 42:8 - NIV)

"Father, glorify your name! Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again!'" (John 12:28 – NIV)

INTRO: Story - Boy loves his mom, and she wants the living room painted. Boy knows that his mom's favourite colour is red, so when she's gone, he paints the living room red. Greatest commandment: Matt 22:37. The boy LOVED his mom and KNEW HER HEART.

STARTING: Study and Reflection Questions:

1. Why did God create the people of Israel? (Isaiah 43:1-7, 20-21)
To bring praise to His Name, to glorify Himself
2. Why did God rescue Israel from the Land of Egypt? (Psalm 106:7-8)
For the sake of His Name, that He might make His power known.
3. Why did God withhold His wrath when the people sinned against Him? (1 Samuel 12:20-22)
For His Name's Sake
4. What is the major reason for the return of Christ according to verse 10? (2 Thessalonians 1:8-10)
To be glorified
5. What are your thoughts on the statement: "God's ultimate passion is for His own glory"? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
Agree- scriptural, makes complete sense

*A lot of people may have a problem with the fact that this sounds like PRIDE. Pride is not attractive to us.

- 1) It's a human quality and not of God.
- 2) God cannot escape His own glory (who else is worth it?)
- 3) If putting something above God is idolatry, then God would be idolater if He put US above himself.
- 4) There is nothing in us that we can glorify.

Definition of Glory: The manifestation of the sum total of the characteristics & nature of God.

LEARNING: Understanding God's Ultimate Passion for His Own Glory

1. We were formed into being for the **Glory** of God. (Isaiah 43:6-7)
2. God chose His people for the **honour** of His name. (Jer. 13:11; Eph. 1:4-6, 12, 14)
3. God did mighty acts in the Old Testament for the honour of His **name**. (Ex. 14:4; Ezekiel 20:14, 30:22-23; 2 Samuel 7:23; 2 Kings 19:34)
4. God **forgives** sin for His sake. (Isaiah 43:25; Psalm 25:11)
5. Jesus endured suffering for God's glory. (John 12:27-28)
6. Jesus aims that we see and **behold** His glory. (John 17:24)
7. God pronounced judgment for all who **dishonour** (fall short of the glory of God = sin) His glory. (Malachi 2:2; Romans 3:23; Acts 12:23)
8. God's glory will be our eternal companion in heaven. (Revelation 21:23) - *This is an eternal concept.*

DISCUSSING: Aligning Ourselves with God's Ultimate Passion

(This is where it gets really practical.)

1. Constantly have before our minds that **everything** in life must be done for God's glory. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Even the most mundane things, do with all you HEART

2. Walk in fellowship with and dependence on the Spirit. (John 16:14)

Referring to the Holy Spirit...affects "to do" list, how you walk to classes, etc. every little thing

3. Depend on the **strength** of God for life and service. (1 Peter 4:11)

We can't do all these commandments, but we must, so we must be totally dependant on God.

4. Pray. (John 14:13)

That's why we pray in Jesus' name. God may answer our prayer "no" because our request may not glorify Him.

5. Do good works with a pure heart. (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12)

The motives of the heart are seen by the Lord.

6. Be **faithful** in all that God leads you to do. (John 17:4)

Jesus was faithful to accomplish all that the Father had given Him to do.

7. Ask to see and know more of **God's Glory**. (Exodus 33:18- 23)