

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

GLORY

WEEK 2: DEC. 4, 2022

Faithful God,
thank you for your
presence in all aspects
of our lives. Help us to
realize and receive
your glory.

Amen

NOT PEACE BUT GLORY!

READ John 12:23, 27-28; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Luke 2:7

John 12:23, 27-28 - Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified...."

27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!"

2Corinthians 4:17 - Our temporary minor problems are producing an eternal stockpile of glory for us that is beyond all comparison.

Luke 2:7 - And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

GETTING STARTED

- Welcome each other.
- Inquire as to anyone who is missing. Is follow-up needed?
- We commonly pray for peace. How often do we pray for glory? Is this a new idea for you?



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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How familiar, if at all, are you with the remarkable life of Mary McLeod Bethune? If you have heard of her, share how you came to know of her. If she is unfamiliar to you, why do you suspect this is?
- How is Mary McLeod Bethune's life relevant to the purpose of the sermon, i.e., not peace, but glory! What does her life story teach us about glory?
- Pastor Rob applied the lessons of her life to Scriptural references to glory that might be familiar or enlightening or confusing. Reflect on notions of glory from last week's sermon. Then react to how Pastor Rob built on them. Here are some ideas--
 - Recall Pastor Jevon's definition of glory from last week: the visible manifestation of God's presence.
 - Remember "shekinah" glory is when God is dwelling with us, often described as a cloud.
 - Pastor Rob introduces us to the word "doxa" that we associate with praise-related glory such as in musical lyrics.
 - Then he shifts to what might be more difficult references to glory, e.g., Jesus' crucifixion. Refer back to the original definition of glory and apply it to difficult circumstances.
- What is hard or "heavy" about your life right now? Work? Finances? Relationships? School? Health issues? Loss and grief? Something else? Pastor Rob suggests replacing our typical prayer, "Lord, take this heaviness away...." with "Lord, help me see your glory in this place where I am." What is your reaction to his suggestion? How might Pastor Rob's discussion of glory address some of the weighty problems we face?
- Compare praying for peace and praying for glory.
- How do the life experiences of Henri Nouwen and Aunt Nell serve as examples of finding glory?
- What one or two takeaways do you have from this sermon?

PRAYER REQUESTS

