

Mirrors and Mountaintops

---small group discussion guide ---

Week of 7/1/18

Give an example of an insider phrase from your workplace, a hobby, or even from your family and tell the group what it means.

(optional exercise) One of the ways Jesus overcame the insider-language-problem was by explaining complex ideas through stories or parables.

- Get the group to come up with an example of one of Jesus's parables.
- As a group - try explaining the moral of that story by making it more complex/using insider language.
 - Example: Parable of the Prodigal Son → "The forgiveness of Jesus is all-encompassing," or "His great love covers even a multitude of sins"
- Why is Jesus's method preferred?

In today's message, the insider phrase we are focusing on is **GLORY**. This word in its Greek state is DOXA, which means: opinion, belief, understanding, or reputation - the true essence of a person.

In Exodus 34:6, when the Lord is passing by Moses, we read that He is described as a "compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin." What other words would you use to describe God?

God's Doxa, or essence, can be summed up by "His goodness".

- List some specific examples from the Bible where God showed his goodness.
- Can anyone think of a challenging example - a time where it's not immediately apparent about God's goodness? If so - dig further as a group to uncover how even that example does show God's love for His people, or His goodness.

In your own life, give an example of a time you saw God's goodness.

If God is good, and we understand His goodness, the Bible teaches that we will naturally reflect God's glory. In other words, our life will make God look good.

- Take a minute and reflect on the lives of those in your small group. Share an example of how you see God's goodness in the life of someone else in your group.
- Now reflect on your own life. Are there patterns or habits you have which might not be making God look good? (No need to share, just reflect)

As you go forth this week, make a point to look for times when you see the goodness of God.