

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

## Created for Glory | Exodus 33:18-23 Sermon Discussion Leader's Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** Each person coming up with at least one way they would like to grow in seeing God's glory or in becoming like God this semester.

**Sermon Refresher:** We are all prone to make God like us. Therefore, we need God to reveal to us what he is like, and we should find many things surprising. When Moses asked to see God, God told Moses that he can't see his full glory otherwise Moses would die. But, we were made to see God in all of his glory, and we are all longing and looking for it whether we are fully aware of that or not. The only answer to our sense of lost glory is putting our hope in what Jesus has done and promises for us.

**Icebreaker:** What is a time you had a trip or a vacation go differently than you planned?

**Transition:** Even more than our vacations, our own life is often filled with unexpected twists and turns. We often think the narrative of our life will play out one way, but as we heard in the sermon this week the unexpected narrative in our life is about a lost glory that still echoes in our soul.

### **Discussion:**

1. How do you see people in our day and age making God to be like us?
2. Read Exodus 33:18-23. Moses had already experienced God speaking to him from the burning bush, seen God send the plagues upon Egypt, the splitting of the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross, and God's miraculous provision of food and water in the wilderness. What does it tell us that Moses still asks to see God's glory? What does it tell us that God says "I can't because you'll die"?

### **Exodus 33:18-23**

<sup>18</sup> Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

<sup>19</sup> And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on

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whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. <sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

<sup>21</sup> Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. <sup>22</sup> When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup> Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

3. Even though God can't show Moses the fullness of his glory, God does show him what Dave described as "an echo of his glory." Dave goes on to say that the world is filled with echoes of God's glory. Describe a time that you have experienced an "echo of glory"?
4. Read John 1:17-18 and John 14:6. What has Jesus done to allow us to see God's glory?

## John 1:17-18

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

## John 14:6

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

5. Read John 17:24. Part of seeing God's glory in Christ means waiting until he takes us to where he is. What alternatives might we look to satisfy our longing for glory instead of waiting for the glory Jesus promises to bring? What can we do practically to wait well?

## John 17:24

<sup>24</sup> "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

6. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. Besides waiting to see the fullness of God's glory when Jesus returns, we can increasingly see God's glory now in this life and to be

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changed into his glory. How might we increasingly see God's glory and reflect God's glory practically look like in our lives?

## **2 Corinthians 3:18**

<sup>18</sup> And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

### **Sharing and Prayer:**

Have everyone share an area they would like to grow in seeing God's glory or becoming more like God for the coming semester. Have people pray for the person on their left.