

## John 12:20–33 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To re-define glory according to the cross and explore how we might follow Jesus on that path of putting God first.

**Sermon Refresher:** We are all on a quest for glory. The Bible talks about glory as honor and as the visible manifestation of God’s splendor. Jesus reveals God’s glory supremely—and surprisingly—in the cross. The awfulness of the cross reveals what God is really like as a God who loves and forgives. We’re invited on the same path by hating our lives in order to follow Jesus and glorify God in all of life.

**Discussion:**

1. In what ways are you motivated to make yourself look good? What are the areas of life where you tend to look for glory?
2. The story of glory runs throughout the Old Testament, helping us see the radiance of who God is in his character and majesty. Read Isaiah 6:1–7 where the prophet recounts a vision he had in the temple. What do we learn about God’s glory from this passage?
3. Let’s read John 12:20–33 together. Jesus makes a surprising connection between glory and his death on the cross. He says his death is necessary for people to have life and forgiveness. How does forgiveness change how you look for glory?
4. Charles argued that the cross makes God’s character visible by revealing his concern for others, his humility, and his willingness to get involved with the mess in our lives. Which of those resonate in particular for you? How could that re-shape how you see God?
5. Jesus calls us to follow him by hating our life in this world (12:25). This is controversial and easily misunderstood. How do we hate our lives in the right way?

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6. John Frame describes glorifying God as enhancing God’s reputation, making him look good.<sup>1</sup> In light of how God’s glory takes the shape of the cross, what would it look like for you to pray this week for God to glorify his name in your life (John 12:28)?
- a. In your character?
  - b. In your relationships with family and friends?
  - c. In your work?
  - d. in your small group?

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<sup>1</sup> John Frame, *Systematic Theology* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing), 398.