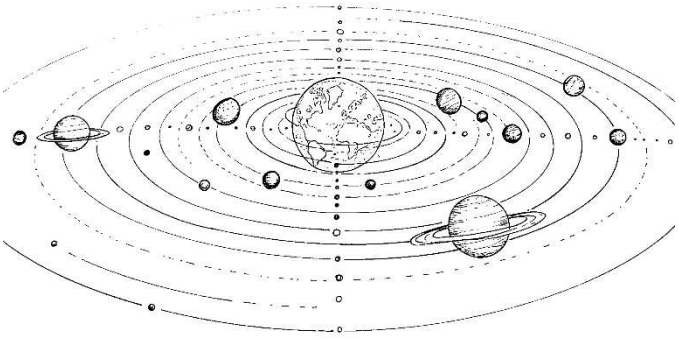
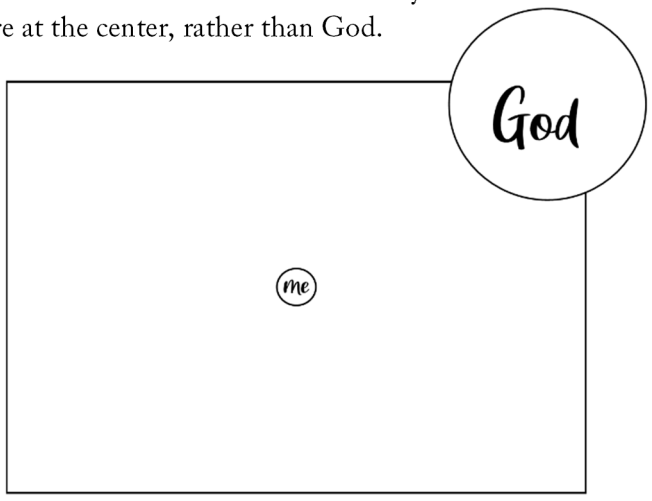
Heavy vs. **Light**

We sometimes struggle to really grasp the concept of "God's glory" or at least we have a hard time making it practical. One tangible expression of this concept is to possess weight or value—like heavy gold compared to light feathers. The more a precious metal weighs, the more value it possesses. By that definition, God is the weightiest or most glorious Person in the universe!



Think about the way our Creator God designed our solar system to function. The sun, with a gravitational pull strength of 274 m/s^2, has the necessary gravity to keep the planets—including earth—in perfect orbit. What would happen if we were to somehow place earth, with a mere gravitational pull strength of 9.807 m/s^2, in the sun's rightful place? (This illustration pictures what people centuries ago believed: that the solar system revolved around the earth!) What consequences might we experience in such a disordered universe?

Imagine your life as a solar system. While the way we think or act doesn't remove God from His rightful place as the center of all things, we will experience similar chaos and disorder when we try to live with ourselves at the center. Use the diagram below to draw or write out the kind of chaos that you are experiencing because of trying to live life like you are at the center, rather than God.



Realigning our perspective to reality begins with an accurate understanding of God's supremacy. God's supremacy means that He is first, above all, and chief. God alone holds this position, because God alone possesses all glory. In other words, God belongs in the center of the universe! Where can we get this understanding? By beholding the glory of God in Scripture (2 Corinthians 3:18). God's Word corrects our "light" view of Him.

How to do this study:

Prayerfully read through the selected passages about God's glory listed below. Approaching God's Word with a spirit of humility is essential in the process of biblical change. Ask Him to use His Word to change you from the inside out: transforming the way you **think**, what you **value**, and what you **do** (Romans 12:1-2).

- As you read through the passages on page 4, mark every reference to **God** in a distinctive way.
- Read through the passages again, marking every reference to **glory** (or any similar words).
- While you can focus on just the verses listed below, you will get even more out of this study if you take the time to look up each verse in your own Bible and read the surrounding **context**.
- Answer the **meditation questions** as you read through the selected passages.

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- Finally, consider how God wants you to **apply** what you are learning from these passages to your own life. While space for personal application is given at the end of the study, be thinking about these questions as you work through the study. With God's help, how should the reality of God's amazing glory change your thinking, values, and/or actions? (For example, in Psalm 29:1-2, the psalmist calls on God's people to make a commitment to give God glory.)

Meditation Prompts

What do these verses teach you about God? *(What is He like? What does He do? What does He say?)*	
What reasons do these passages provide for *why* God deserves glory?	
List any commands you find in these passages.	
What key words do you need to study more in-depth? (An online resource such as *Blue Letter Bible* or *Olive Tree* can help with this.)	
Do you have any unanswered questions about these passages? Ask a trusted adult for help.	

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Personal Application:

Bible study should never stop short of personal application. This is where you have the opportunity to allow God's truth to penetrate your heart and respond in humble submission to the timeless truths you have learned in His Word. Take time to prayerfully work through the following application questions. Consider talking over your answers with a trusted adult. Pray for God's grace to live out what He is showing you.

In your own words, write a short summary of what God taught you through your survey of these verses about His glory:	
Did God show you anything in your life for which you need to **repent**, because it doesn't give Him glory? (A sinful habit, action, desire, or belief?)	
How should a right view of God's glory change what you **think** or what you **believe?** (About God, yourself, others, or the world?)	
In what specific ways did these passages encourage you to **put on** something godly, such as Christlike attitude, a righteous desire, or a spiritual habit?	

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Passages Relating to God's Glory:

- **Psalm 29:1-2** Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.
- **Psalm 57:11** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth.
- **Psalm 66:1-3** Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.
- **Psalm 96:8-9** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!
- **Acts 12:21-23** On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.
- **2 Corinthians 4:15-18** For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
- **Ephesians 1:11-14** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
- **Ephesians 3:20-21** Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
- **2 Peter 3:18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
- **Revelation 1:4-7** John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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