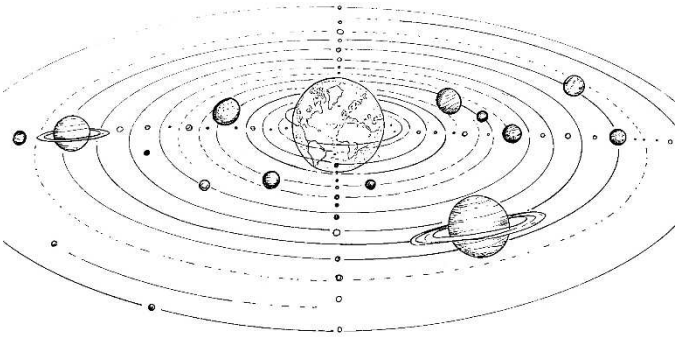
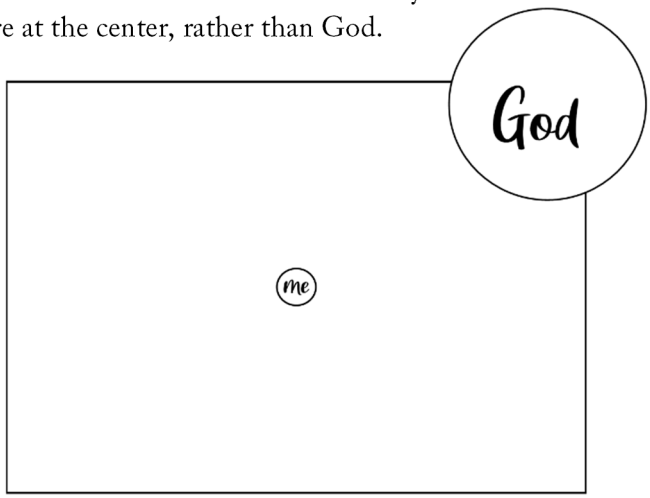
Heavy vs. **Light**

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** Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- **Psalm 57:11** Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth.
- **Psalm 66:1-3** Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious. Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.
- **Psalm 96:8-9** Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.
- **Acts 12:21-23** And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, "It is the voice of a god, and not of a man." And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.
- **2 Corinthians 4:15-18** For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- **Ephesians 1:11-14** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
- **Ephesians 3:20-21** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.
- **2 Peter 3:18** But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.
- **Revelation 1:4-7** John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

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