

RADICAL TOGETHER



OUR EXALTED GOD

We are selfless followers of an exalted God.

week
6

GROUP GUIDE INDIVIDUALS

Can also be used as a devotion for individuals. Idea: you may want to journal your thoughts.
If you would like to be in a group, please see contact information on the back.

FAMILIES

This Group Guide can also be used for family devotions together. If you have children, we suggest you use the New International Readers Version (NiRV) translation, which is sometimes easier for a child's comprehension.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION: DESIRING GOD'S GLORY



1. OPENER

It's always good to open with prayer. Say a prayer, inviting God to be in your midst and to help each of you to listen well – to each other, to your own hearts, and to God.

- Reflect back on the last session
 - What do you remember about the last session?
 - What changes, if any, in your life, family, work, or church life are you trying to make as a result of that discussion?
 - What questions, concerns, or unresolved tensions do you have regarding the last session?

Get Started:

- What have been some of the most challenging moments for you in this series of messages of group discussions?
- How do you sense God stretching you in your faith right now? What emotions is that raising in your heart, or what questions in your mind?

SERMON RECAP: What was particularly striking to you in the message on *Our Exalted God*? It may be helpful to refer to your sermon notes from that week.



2. DISCUSSION

Read John 14:5-14: Have someone from the group read this passage.

- What do you find challenging in this passage?
- Focus in on verses 12-14. Talk through these verses as a group, discussing the practical implications or questions you have of what Jesus says here.

Read John 1:14-18: Ask if someone would be willing to read this passage out loud for the group and have everyone listen. As a group, try to “retell” the core messages of this passage.

- What does the word “glory” mean to you?
- If you have a Study Bible, look up the word glory. Otherwise, look it up on a computer.

Scripture tells us that Jesus came to reveal God's glory, for God's glory, and the we are called to live for his Glory. The Westminster Shorter Catechism says that the chief purpose of human life is to glorify (or give glory) to God and to enjoy him forever. What do you think that means?

- What are ways that human beings can “give glory” to God?
- What ways to you personally “give glory” to God?

John Piper says that Mission exists because worship doesn't. In other words, we do mission to help others bring glory to God as well. Think of some people in your life, in your spheres of influence, or in possible spheres of influence who are not now living for the glory of God. What do you think your or the church's responsibility is in those cases?

Read and discuss Ezekiel 36:22-24

David Platt says the following things in his book *Radical Together*:

- "Why are local churches beginning to reshape their priorities and reassess their spending in light of urgent spiritual and physical needs around the world? And why are their members changing their lifestyles, packing their bags, selling their homes, moving to low-income areas, or taking their families to dangerous places?"
- "...individually and together, we are to be selfless followers of a self-centered God. But the problem is often reverse this in the church. We become self-centered followers of a self-less God. We organize our churches as if God exists to meet our needs, cater to our comforts, and appeal to our preferences. Discussions in the church more often revolve around what we want than what he wills. Almost unknowingly, the church becomes a means of self-entertainment and a monument to self-sufficiency."
- "We want to see God glorified by people everywhere because God wants to see himself glorified by people everywhere."

Discus those quotes as a group.

To shift gears a bit, David Platt says this in his book: "Unleashing God's people to accomplish God's purpose in the world requires that we devote ourselves to relentless prayer in the church." SD Gordon, in a book called *Quiet Talks on Prayer* says, "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. One of our church's values is to be "a prayer-permeated church in which prayer increasingly impacts our individual lives and our lives together. [Phil. 4:6-7, Mark 11:17]"

- Talk about how prayer has affected your life.
- Talk about how prayer has affected the ministry of our church.
- Talk about your own prayer life, and whether or how God is informing your work for his glory. If you would like a deeper prayer life, talk about your struggles and what it is you desire.



3. CHALLENGE/APPLICATION

We want to close with a very clear application that comes out of the last six weeks. Each is a one year commitment. Our hope is that you would commit to all six as individuals, as groups, or as families. You may decide that you want to focus just on one right now. Whatever you decide, pray through these challenges and share your commitments with each other. Develop a way to partner with each other in these commitments or to encourage each other and hold one another accountable to your commitments. (For more information, see [The Radical Experiment at www.radicalexperiment.org/overview.html](http://www.radicalexperiment.org/overview.html).)

Here are those challenges:

1. TO PRAY FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD

- The book "Operation World" is a great resource.
- Pray for the whole world to come to know Christ, but you may also commit to a specific place in the world and that the Gospel might go forth there.

2. TO READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE WORD

- You can find several reading plans at YouVersion.com.
- Many in our staff have used Life Journals to make this reading more devotional and application. You can order one at LifeJournal.cc.

3. TO COMMIT TO MULTIPLYING COMMUNITY

- Commit to supporting one of our venues or sites, Rock Harbor, South Harbor, HarborLife, or Harbor Chapel.
- Together as a group, contact a campus pastor of one of these congregations and volunteer to do something together.
- Start putting money aside for the Pentecost offering on May 27, 2012 that will go toward multiplication.
- Commit to being a part of a present or future venue, site, plant, or partnership.

4. TO SACRIFICE FOR A SPECIFIC KINGDOM PURPOSE

- Decide on a financially sacrificial amount to support a particular mission. You might consider doing this for the upcoming Thanksgiving Offering for missions.
- Commit to sponsoring a child through Compassion International.
- Personally support a missionary.

5. TO GIVE OF YOUR TIME IN ANOTHER CONTEXT

- Take a cross-cultural mission trip.
- Visit one of our missionary partners to learn about their ministry, support, and encourage them.



4. PRAYER

Spend some time together as a group praying about the things you have talked about and the commitments you are making or plan to make. Give thanks to God for his grace and salvation in Jesus Christ. Be honest with God about what is difficult for you, what you don't understand, what you don't like, and what you need. Pray for the courage to be able to follow after Jesus together in a way that relies on the powerful, saving grace of Jesus and pursues Kingdom fruitfulness in your life.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A GROUP

contact one of our groups team today to get connected!

Fair Haven
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Harbor Chapel
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HarborLife Church
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