



Activate: God's Glory
Lesson 5: Glory Defined

Lesson 5, Devotion 1

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." – Psalm 19:1-4

Have you ever heard the phrase, "A picture can tell a thousand words?" Essentially, this psalm is saying, "God's glory speaks a thousand words through His creation." Have you considered that God speaks to us through His creation?

If creation could speak audibly about God's glory and who He is, what would it say? Take some time to write down words that describe God and who He is based on what you see in the world around you. Use a note-taking app or a journal. Think about these words as you go through your day.



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Lesson 5, Devotion 2

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." – Ephesians 2:10

Have you been to a famous art gallery? Behind every work of art is a creator with a plan for what the masterpiece should look like. Most works of art take months or even years to create as the artist pays attention to every small detail. At the end of the creation, the artist will carefully add his or her mark or signature to authenticate the work.

God's signature is all over creation. But, have you considered that God's glory is also seen through His creation of YOU? You are God's creation. Ephesians 2:10 uses a Greek word *poiēma*, which means "God's masterpiece." That's you!

Some things to think about:

- God is the Creator who has specific purposes for His masterpieces. His fingerprints are all over your life.
- God's glory is displayed through His creation. You're a part of that creation. And so your life brings glory to God. Let this thought dramatically change the way you see yourself and your day!



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Lesson 5, Devotion 3

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." – Psalm 100:1-5

Think about this quote as you go through your day.

"The created universe is all about glory. The deepest longing of the human heart and the deepest meaning of heaven and earth are summed up in this: the glory of God. The universe was made to show it, and we were made to see it and savor it. Nothing less will do. Which is why the world is as disordered and dysfunctional as it is. We have exchanged the glory of God for other things." – John Piper

We are made to worship God. The whole of creation points to God and His glory. But, as Piper points out, when we focus on other less significant things, it's then that the world becomes a challenging place to live.

Spend some time merely asking God to show you where your focus is. Ask Him to show you things that are less significant but have become an unhealthy focus. It could be the stuff you own or that guy or girl you like. It could be that you are obsessed with success and have allowed grades or winning to replace your dependence on God and His glory in your life.

Ask God to show you the areas of your life where you are living for your glory. Ask Him to show you how to live for HIS glory.