

# GLORY BE

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## CHECKLIST: WHAT YOU NEED

- Pencils and pieces of paper; small container
- Copies of the downloadable 622 service booklet
- Copies of the lesson handout
- Copy of the leader's notes
- OPTIONAL: A white board, easel pad, or chalk board with markers/chalk
- OPTIONAL: Clock or watch with second hand for timing
- OPTIONAL: Bibles (ESV or similar recommended)
- OPTIONAL: Have notebooks on hand for teens to take home and use as prayer journals if they wish

## ICE BREAKER: WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?

Write out some types of people with very different status levels on pieces of paper, fold and have them ready. (For example: a king, a priest, a homeless person, someone who lives in your neighbourhood, a teacher, a fast food worker, a judge).

Begin by asking the teens to think about status: from the lowliest human being to the highest. You may need to take a minute or two to describe status (in terms of wealth, power, popularity, etc.), and to brainstorm about how these different people might see themselves or behave.

Each person chooses a piece of paper. Sitting in a circle, each person takes a turn introducing themselves to the group in character. They can't give away what is actually written on their paper, they can just briefly describe where they go, what they do, how people treat them, and how they feel about it. After each turn, go around and guess what type of person was selected. If time permits, allow the teens to consider how that character could be more fully developed if the actor had more time to prepare.

FOR LARGE GROUPS, LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF "PERFORMANCE" TIME TO THIRTY SECONDS. FOR SMALL GROUPS, YOU MAY TAKE SEVERAL TURNS, AND ALLOW MORE TIME FOR DISCUSSION AFTER EACH TURN.

## 622: BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

Begin the formal part of the lesson by saying together the first part of the order of service for young people in the booklet, up to the middle of page 4.

AT THIS POINT IN THE LESSON, ASK IF THE TEENS SUCCEEDED IN DOING LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE, HOW IT WENT, AND WHETHER THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE.

## DISCUSSION: HOW CAN YOU TELL?

As an introduction to the lesson ask the teens to discuss the following questions.

DEPENDING ON THE COMFORT LEVEL FOR SHARING IN YOUR GROUP, IT MAY BE EASIER TO HAVE THEM VOLUNTEER ANSWERS WITH ALL RESPONSES WRITTEN TOGETHER ON A BOARD.

- Brainstorm to produce a list of people you admire, respect or love.  
(Your list might include celebrities, world leaders, philanthropists, friends, etc.)
  - How would *you* act if you met someone you admire? respect? are in love with?
  - How do you think someone *should* act when they are meeting someone prominent?
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- Is there any human being that we should ever treat with contempt?  
*(This needs to be addressed, but try to move on to keep the lesson focused).*
- When we pray to God, what are some ways that we show admiration, respect and love?

*A few things worth pointing out (if they don't otherwise arise during the discussion):*

- *When we meet someone amazing, we want to tell them how we feel about them and what they mean to us. Sometimes we might try to pretend that we don't admire them if we are afraid they will think we are silly.*
- *When we meet someone prominent, we can be honest without being silly. There may be a particular title that we should use to address them that shows respect, like "Your Honour" or "Your Majesty".*
- *We should never treat any human being with contempt. Scripture tell us that we are all made "in the image of God", which means there is something in us that is worthy of being treated with dignity, no matter what our status or how much of a mess we may have made of our lives.*
- *We show God how much we admire, respect and love him by spending time with him in prayer and by living in a way that honours him. Specifically speaking of the language of our prayer, we may address him with formal language (like "Our Heavenly Father"), and we may take time to talk through some of the amazing things he has done and just tell him how much we adore him.*

## THE LESSON: ISAIAH 6

The first part of the lesson begins with a few notes about adoration in general, the *Gloria Patri* ("Glory be to the Father") in particular, and then introduces the scripture text. Next the teens are asked to read the Bible text (either silently to themselves or aloud together). This is followed by additional questions for discussion.

The renowned Anglican scholar J.I. Packer wrote, "Right from the start of the Bible story, through the wisdom of divine inspiration, the narrative is told in such a way as to impress upon us the twin truths that the God to whom we are being introduced is both personal and majestic".

There are many aspects to our relationship with God and to the conversations we have with him. Sometimes we tend to focus on what we need or want from him, but we also need to take time to remember to whom it is we are talking, and to bask in his presence. When we say the *Gloria Patri* we are pausing to do just that.

In the service of Holy Communion we say (or sing) the *Gloria in Excelsis*, a hymn that is based on the song the angels sang when they announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds: "*Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men.*" (Luke 2:14). The 622 service uses a much briefer form of praise, but its purpose is the same. When we offer glory to God, we are joining with the angels – and with believers across time and space – in recognizing his majesty and splendor.

Throughout scripture we have these awe-inspiring glimpses of God's glory. One of these glimpses is found in the Old Testament book of the prophet Isaiah, and describes a vision he had of an encounter with our glorious Lord.

Refer to Isaiah 6:1-8.

(THE TEXT IS PROVIDED ON THE BACK OF THE HANDOUTS AND IN THESE LEADERS' NOTES SO THAT EVERYONE CAN MARK IT UP AND MAKE NOTES ON IT IF DESIRED. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN READ OUT OF A BIBLE).

Read through the text. Then ask the teens to respond to what they've just read. Here are some questions to help guide the discussion.

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- Brainstorm about some of the things that demonstrate the majesty of God in Isaiah's vision.
- When Isaiah encounters God's glory, what is the first thing that happens to him?
- How do you think Isaiah is going to be changed by this encounter?

*A few notes and reflections for reference:*

- *Majesty is apparent in: the throne, the placement of the throne (high and lifted up); the enormity of the train and robe, the seraphim and their song, the shaking of the foundations, the smoke, and the reaction of Isaiah.*
- *Isaiah is immediately conscious of how he falls short of God's glory. He's aware of his own sin and he's aware of the sin of the people he belongs to. It moves him to confession!*
- *His new awareness of sin in the light of God's glory is going to change his perspective on how he lives. The encounter leaves him with a mission; he becomes God's sent one.*

DURING EACH LESSON, IF THE TEENS RAISE THEOLOGICAL OR BIBLICAL QUESTIONS THAT YOU DON'T FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT ANSWERING, SAY SO, BUT LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER AND RESPOND AT THE NEXT MEETING.

## PREVIEW: AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Take a brief moment to look at the at-home challenge together.

THE WEEKLY "AT-HOME CHALLENGE" IS TYPICALLY A SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT TO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME IN PRIVATE PRAYER. ENCOURAGE THE TEENS TO GET NOTEBOOKS THAT CAN BE USED AS PRAYER JOURNALS. ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR JOURNAL OR THEIR PRIVATE PRAYERS TO ANYONE.

At home, find a quiet place and pick one of these biblical encounters to meditate on:

*1 Kings 19:9-18: The Lord passes by Elijah on the mountain*

*Isaiah 6:1-8: Isaiah's vision*

*Luke 2:8-20: The angels' announcement to the shepherds*

*Matthew 17:1-8: The transfiguration of Christ*

*(The Isaiah passage was used in our lesson and is written on the back of today's handout. If you don't have easy access to a Bible, check out [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com))*

Read through the passage, imagining it in detail. Then say, as if you were there saying it with the people in the narrative: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect, pausing to reflect after each phrase.

*O God, who on the holy mount didst reveal to chosen witnesses thy well-beloved Son wonderfully transfigured: Mercifully grant unto us such a vision of his divine majesty, that we, being purified and strengthened by thy grace, may be transformed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* (COLLECT FOR THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, BCP PAGE 289)

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## 622 (AGAIN)

Close with any prayers that might be appropriate in the context of the discussion of the day.

AT THE END OF EACH LESSON, IF YOU FIND THAT YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME REMAINING, YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO EXPLORE THE “PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS” SECTION IN THE BCP (PAGES 39-62, OR YOU CAN USE THE DOWNLOADABLE BOOKLET). AS YOUR GROUP MEMBERS COME ACROSS PRAYERS THAT THEY FIND RELEVANT, PAUSE AND PRAY THEM TOGETHER. IF YOU’RE PRESSED FOR TIME, YOU MIGHT CLOSE WITH THE THEMED PRAYER FROM THE AT-HOME CHALLENGE.

Then finish with the “Grace”, the final prayer in the booklet.

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### ISAIAH 6: **HIGH AND LIFTED UP**

<sup>1</sup>...I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” <sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” <sup>8</sup>And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”