



From Glory to Glory

Brian Coles
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WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Faithful And True** (*New Life Worship*)
- **Been So Good** (*Elevation Worship*)
- **Because Of Jesus** (*Charity Gayle*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Galatians 4:6
- Hebrews 1:3
- John 17:22-23
- 2 Corinthians 3

OPENING PRAYER

Open your time together in prayer.

ICEBREAKER

“What’s something about you that has changed over the years – maybe a habit, attitude, perspective, or even something you used to enjoy – that you never thought would change?”

OVERVIEW

This guide is designed to help your group engage deeply with the truths from 2 Corinthians 3 and explore what it means to be progressively transformed by the presence and glory of God. The goal is not simply to discuss ideas but to encounter the living, transforming Spirit of God together.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The purpose of our faith is the presence of God.
 - Throughout Scripture — from the Garden of Eden to Abraham, Moses, and ultimately Jesus — God's desire has always been to dwell with His people. We are invited to expect His transforming presence in our lives, our families, and our church.
2. The glory of God is not static — it transforms.
 - The glory of God refers to the manifest presence, divine radiance, and moral excellence of God revealed in Jesus Christ, which actively transforms believers from the inside out. We are not left unchanged by an encounter with God.
3. Transformation is progressive.
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18 describes a movement from one degree of glory to even more glory. This is not a one-time event but an ongoing, Spirit-led process available to every believer with an unveiled face.
4. The veil is removed in Christ.
 - Hardened hearts and spiritual blindness are real, but whenever a person turns to the Lord in repentance and faith, the veil is taken away. Freedom and transformation become possible.
5. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
 - True freedom is not the absence of difficulty — it is the presence of the Spirit. Emancipation from bondage comes through surrender to Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening

1. Think about a time when you were genuinely aware of God's presence. What did that feel like, and how did it affect you?
2. Pastor Brian mentioned the concept of expansion — becoming greater in size, scope, and importance. Where in your life are you currently expecting God to expand His presence and work?

Going Deeper

3. Pastor Brian said, *"The purpose of our faith is the presence of God."* Do you agree? In practical terms, what does it look like to pursue God's presence rather than simply His blessings or answers to prayer?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. The passage describes believers with "unveiled faces" being progressively transformed. What are some veils — habits, mindsets, fears, or wounds — that might be limiting your ability to clearly see and reflect God's glory?
5. Pastor Brian referenced the stained-glass illustration, noting that we each shine the light of Jesus in different ways, but that we can distort our own or others' colors based on our assumptions about them. Have you ever limited someone else — or felt limited by someone else — based on age, gender, past, or background? How does the gospel challenge that tendency?
6. The sermon raised the question: *"What is Heaven saying about your identity?"* How does that question sit with you? Is it easy or difficult to receive what God says about who you are? Why?
7. 2 Corinthians 3:6 draws a contrast between the letter that kills and the Spirit that gives life. Where in your spiritual life might you be relying on rules or performance rather than the life-giving work of the Spirit?

Reflection and Application

8. The transformation described in 2 Corinthians 3:18 is progressive — from one degree of glory to even more glory. Looking back over the last year, where have you seen evidence of that kind of growth in your own life?
9. Pastor Brian spoke about expectation — using the examples of the oil and jars, the excavator, and asking God to give the nations. How does your level of expectation affect how you pray and how you live? What would it look like to raise your expectation?
10. If transformation happens as we continually look at the glory of the Lord, what spiritual practices or rhythms help you keep your gaze fixed on Him? Are there any you feel prompted to add or restore?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again:

Pray for an unveiled heart. Set aside intentional time this week to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any veil — a mindset, a wound, a habit, or a lie — that is limiting your transformation. Write down what He shows you.

Speak identity over someone. Think of a person in your life — a child, a friend, a fellow church member — and ask God what Heaven is saying about their identity. Find a meaningful way to speak that truth over them this week.

Expand your expectation in prayer. Identify one area of your life, your family, or your community where you have stopped expecting God to move. Write a specific prayer of expectation and pray it daily this week.

Reflect on your spiritual growth. Journal about one area where you have moved from one degree of glory to another. Thank God for that transformation and ask Him what the next step looks like.

Share your story. 2 Corinthians 3:2 describes believers as letters of Christ, known and read by all people. Consider who in your life needs to read your story. Look for an opportunity this week to share what God has done in you.

Closing Thought and Prayer

Close your group time by praying together over these themes:

- That each group member would experience the manifest presence and transforming glory of God
- That any veils of hardness, shame, or unbelief would be removed in Christ
- That your group, your church, and your network would expect and experience expansion in the Kingdom of God
- That the Spirit of the Lord would move freely, bringing true liberty to every heart represented in the room

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)