

# FOR GOD'S SAKE GROW UP

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## CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- What's your favorite way to start out the day?
- If there were to be a poster of anything up on your wall as a kid, what would it have been?
- What's the most beautiful landscape you've seen?

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## TRUTH *UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

Last week we discovered that we grow up for God's sake by growing in wisdom. We also learned that we must be taught this wisdom by God. Just as there are effective and ineffective ways to learn anything, there are effective ways that God has provided for us to mature in Christ. In 2 Corinthians 3, the Apostle Paul says that the key to growing is "beholding." Let's see what it means to behold, and how we can live that out.

### GOD'S GLORY CHANGES US

**READ:** Exodus 33:18-34:8, 29

**DISCUSS:** What stands out to you from this passage?

In 2 Corinthians 3:16, Paul says that "when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed." This is a reference to Moses's experience in Exodus 32-34. In the same way that an encounter with God's glory made Moses's face shine, encountering God's glory changes us. The word "glory" means the manifestation of God's excellencies. By into contact with God's glory, we're changed, and this change is what is means to grow up.

### GLORY TO GLORY

**READ:** 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

**DISCUSS:** What do you think it means that Christians are transformed "from one degree of glory to another"?

To be transformed from one degree of glory to another means that someone reflects more and more of God's glory through their life as time goes on. In other words, growing up means looking more and more like God. Remember that God's glory is his collective excellencies – the multiplicity of ways in which he is good. By maturing, God wants to bring us into a deeper experiences of goodness.

## BEHOLDING CONTINUALLY

**DISCUSS:** What do you think it means to behold the glory of the Lord?

The Greek word for “behold” means “to gaze at” or “to contemplate.” Paul’s use of “beholding” implies continuous action. Greek scholar Bill Mounce summarizes verse 18 like this: “We all are being changed into the image of Christ by beholding the glory of the Lord.” Practices like worship gatherings, prayer, reading the Bible, fasting, and scripture memory are all ways that God has given us to behold his glory through Jesus Christ.

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## GRACE *SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

**READ:** 2 Corinthians 4:6

Moses’s face shone bright with the reflection of God’s glory, but One greater than Moses came who was the embodiment of God’s glory. Moses was able to glimpse God’s back, but in the face of Jesus, God’s glory is on full display. When we read about Jesus in Scripture, when we worship him in song, and when we fast to meditate on his goodness, we are being changed by his glory from one degree of glory to another.

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## CHANGE *APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- Describe a time in your life recently when beholding the glory of God transformed you.
  - Which of these devotional practices do you want to mature in – worship gatherings, Bible reading and prayer, fasting, memorizing Scripture? What step can you take this week to do it?
  - What aspect of God’s character do you think he’s looking to grow you in right now?
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## PRAYER *RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- Spend some time praising the glory of God on display in Jesus Christ.
- Pray for wisdom about how to prioritize the practice of beholding the glory of God.

### DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?