Year-long Curriculum (YLC) Guide

Theme: *Doing Life*

Theme Verse:

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*John 1:14*

Lesson 1: ***“…We have seen HIS glory” – Thoughts on His Glory and Worship***

**Background on John 1:14:**

-Written by John

--Eye-witness to Jesus ministry

--Written later in life as a reflection on Jesus’ life (John was only apostle who died of old age)

--Not clear who it is written to, specifically (as opposed to *Luke*…which is assumed to be written particularly to the Jews or even one dude named Theophilus who may have been a lawyer or a priest in the Jewish nation at the time)

-John often refers to himself in the book as *the disciple whom Jesus loved*

This is the only one of the Gospels that refers to Jesus (the Word) being present even before the creation of the world

Also…getting deeper, John refers to Jesus (the Word) as the creator (“Through him all things were made), which is a reference to the different roles played by the different members of the Trinity (Father, Son [Jesus—the Word], Holy Spirit)

This first chapter, leading up to verse 14, John is giving his own account of the Creation story (In the beginning…). Basically, what John is saying is that Jesus is the Word…He is, in body, what God wants to say to the world. The life of Jesus is a reference to the whole of what God is saying to all of humanity. Those words, those thoughts, those ideas…became a man, and the life that man lived embodied what God is saying.

*…We have seen His* ***glory****…the* ***glory*** *of the one and only Son…*

*Glory in the Scriptures…*

***Opening Question:***

*What comes to your mind when you think of the word* ***glory****?*

Webster: worshipful praise, honor, and thanksgiving

Psalm 19:1 – The heavens declare the ***glory***of God; skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Isaiah 24:15-16 – Therefore in the east give ***glory*** to the Lord; exalt the name of the Lord, God of Israel, in the islands of the sea. From the ends of the earth we hear singing: “***Glory*** to the Righteous One.”

1 Corinthians 10:31 – So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the ***glory*** of God.

**THINKING OUT LOUD:**

1. So, if we were to put *glory*, specifically *glory to God* into action, what kinds of things would we do?
2. Can you think of a time when you specifically experienced God’s glory?
3. What is the difference between *glory* and *worship?*
4. What does it mean to *worship* God?
5. What has been the most meaningful time of *worship* for you?
6. Why is it important that we understand God’s *glory* and *worship* Him?

**STUFF TO THINK ABOUT:**

READ: *2 Corinthians 4:6 –* For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s *glory* displayed in the face of Christ.

This tells us that because we have accepted the light ‘displayed in the face of Christ,’ that light shines from us. That means his *glory* is an outpouring of the light He pours into us. So, when we worship…when we sing, when we have meaningful fellowship, when we share a meal together, when we display any act of His *glory* pouring from us, the light He has given us is reflected back to Him. It’s almost like a mirror. The mirror has no choice but to reflect the light back. That is what the mirror is designed to do. In a similar way, we *worship*, we respond to His *glory* as a reaction to God being in our lives.

But, you might say, there are times when that is not my response…that is not my reaction. I am not always into the music. I am not always feeling the fellowship. That’s because we sometimes get corrupted by our own junk and that reflection takes some work. Sometimes the mirror can get dirty, and it takes some work to clean it up. In the same way, we might have some work to do in our own souls to clear up our reflection of God. Please don’t hear that this is what it takes to be in God’s favor, or to be loved by Him. NO! God loves us, because that is who He is, and there is nothing we can do to change that. What this does mean, however, is the light we reflect back to Him and to the world can be much clearer and more powerful once we allow Him to show us how to reflect cleanly. It’s like a cycle. As we worship Him, we see His glory more clearly, we reflect the light back more cleanly, our mirrors get cleaned up, and we are compelled to worship Him more, and so on.

**CLOSING:**

Spend some time today in worship. It could be singing (although that might be a bit weird in some settings), or in being with a family member or friend, or praying, or just being quiet and acknowledging that God is near to you. Whatever it is, give yourself the space to be intentional about coming before God and reflecting His light back to Him.

**PRAYER:**

God, we acknowledge that you are the source of all light. This world can be a very dark place. Thanks so much that you choose to shine your light into us. And thanks that we get the opportunity to reflect that light back to you and into the world. Help us to see the places we might need to be working on to reflect that light even better. Please ‘hear’ our worship today whether we vocalize it or not. Thanks so much for loving us, receiving us, and giving us the opportunities to ‘see (YOUR) *glory*’! Amen.