

## Small Group Material

### Glory & Status: A Different Perspective

#### Welcome (10 mins)

- What do these two images of people lifted up make you think of?



- Can you recall (and share) a time of feeling 'uplifted' yourself?

#### Worship (10 mins)

As we read (or may want to sing) the opening lyrics of this well-known chorus, what images fill our minds?

*We want to see Jesus lifted high  
A banner that flies across this land  
That all men might see the truth and know He is the way to heaven  
We want to see, we want to see We want to see Jesus lifted high  
We want to see, we want to see We want to see Jesus lifted high*

- Turn your thoughts/responses into brief prayers of praise or thanks.

#### Word (30 mins) Read John 12: 20-33

1. <sup>21</sup>'Sir,' they said, 'we would like to see Jesus.'
  - a. Read Jn 12:12, 17, 18. Why do you think these Greek visitors to Jerusalem wanted to 'see Jesus'?
  - b. People then and now were drawn to Jesus for a mixture of reasons. What might draw people to want to 'see[k]' Jesus today?
2. <sup>23</sup>'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'
  - a. What might Jesus' original hearers have expected when Jesus said this?
  - b. Who are the people our culture glorifies today, based on what qualities?
3. <sup>25</sup>'Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.' This verse might seem confusing (for example, is it saying that God doesn't want us to enjoy being alive?)
  - a. In your own words, how would you explain it?
  - b. How does what Paul says, in Philippians 3:8-9, help?
4. The image of the falling grain of wheat (v.24) suggests that God can bring life to others through our sacrificial service. Can anyone think of some examples of where they have seen this happen?
5. What does Jesus say is necessary, to receive the privilege of being honoured by the Father? (v.26)
  - a. Try and explain what this means in practical terms for us.
6. In v.32 Jesus says: 'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth ...' echoing the OT prophet Isaiah:

*'See, my servant .. will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. ... his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being' (Isa 52:13-14).*

Thinking of those words, quietly contemplate the accompanying image of this event for a couple of moments:



### **Witness (20 mins) One-to-One to Easter**

<sup>32</sup> *'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all people to myself.'* Jesus' saving work is for every human on earth (something that would have been a shock to the Jews who originally heard his words).

- Think of the people you have been praying for (on your own, or on another's behalf):
  - Pray for them to develop a spiritual hunger to 'see Jesus'
  - Pray for Christians in contact with them
    - to be prompted by the Holy Spirit (could you take a walk or have a coffee outside together? Or zoom chat/phone/send a WhatsApp clip? etc)
    - to have the right opportunity/words to explain why what Jesus has achieved makes such a difference.
- <sup>27</sup>*'Now my soul is troubled...'* We should never underestimate how tough it was for Jesus to choose to be obedient:
  - If you feel able, share with the group about the challenges you are personally facing in terms of living as Jesus did
  - Pray for one another to make obedient choices (when it would be easier not to...)

7. How does this sequence of Jesus being 'lifted up':
  - i. First Jesus was 'lifted up'/crucified on the Cross (*Luke 23:32-36*)
  - ii. Then he was 'lifted up'/raised from the tomb (*Luke 24:6-7*)
  - iii. Finally he was 'lifted up'/exalted up to heaven (*Acts 1:9-10*)help us to understand how God saved us?
8. If this pattern reveals the grace of God in Jesus, how should it also shape our grateful response to Him?