



It's Not About You | Ethan Johnson | 07.06.2025

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

- **Share a high, a low, and something interesting from this week.**

GROW

In a world that constantly tells us to "follow your heart," "chase your dreams," and "put yourself first," it's easy to slip into a mindset that life is all about us. Our comfort. Our success. Our plans. Our desires. But if we're being honest with ourselves, this mentality leaves us always "needing" more, feeling bitter, and leaving us a little bit emptier than we were yesterday.

Fortunately, what we'll come to find is both more humbling and freeing: It's not about us. It's about God.

Pastor Ethan reminded us that we were created *by* God and *for* God—to glorify Him in everything we do.

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

- 1 Corinthians 10:31

That doesn't mean God doesn't care about us—He does, deeply. He sees us, loves us, provides for us, and promises to be with us. But when we fall more in love with the provision that the Provider, we miss out on the *More* that He has for us. His story is bigger, deeper, and more beautiful than anything we could write for ourselves—and He invites us into *His* story, not the other way around.

When we learn to shift from a self-centered mindset to a God-centered one, everything changes. Our Decisions. Our relationships. Our suffering. Even our success. We realize our lives have an eternal purpose beyond personal Gain. We remember that even in hardship, God is working all things together for good (Romans 8:28)—not always our definition of good, but His good, which leads to life, growth, and glory.

This week, let this be both a comfort and a challenge:

God is for you—but this life is for Him.

He is trustworthy with your story—and it becomes most powerful when it points back to Him. So may we live, speak, love, and lead in a way draws people in and points them to His glory.

Read Galatians 2:20, Matthew 5:16

- **How did Ethan's message speak to you this week? What stuck out to you?**
- **How does the concept of God's glory being revealed through our struggles challenge or encourage you in your current circumstances?**
- **Am I overlooking a space, relationship, or habit that God wants to transform into something that brings Him glory?**
- **Do I see God's glory as a burden to carry or a privilege to reflect? Why?**

M O V E

Many of us want to glorify God with our lives. We long to make a difference, to point others to Jesus. But sometimes that desire turns into a quiet pressure to perform:

“If I could just get my act together...”

“If I communicated better...”

“If I worked harder or gave more...”

We believe that if we could do more or be better, God’s work would go further. While that motivation comes from a good place, it still puts the weight on us—our efforts, our abilities.

John the Baptist offers a different way: “He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30)

Notice that it’s not about us growing bigger so Jesus can grow too. Rather, it’s about letting Jesus take the lead, even when that means stepping back ourselves.

Henri Nouwen reminds us that true Christian leadership isn’t about climbing higher, but about choosing humility and service, following the way of the cross.

“The way of the Christian leader is not the way of upward mobility ... but the way of downward mobility ending on the cross.”

When we let go of the striving mentality —“He must increase, so I must increase” — and start surrendering to God’s work in us, we discover freedom and purpose. We’re invited to live with the confidence that it’s not about how much we can do, but about how fully we let Christ shine through us.

- **What does “He must increase, but I must decrease” mean to you personally?**
- **Can you recall a time when stepping back allowed God to work more powerfully through you or someone else?**

Read Psalm 115:1

- **What are some habits or attitudes you can cultivate to keep God at the center and give Him the glory?**

- **How does remembering God’s love and faithfulness help you surrender the desire for personal praise?**
- **How can our group encourage one another to live in a way that honors God’s name above our own?**

P R A Y

This week, as you read about or experience God’s glory, take a moment to pause and reflect on the meaning of “Kavod”—the weight, honor, and importance of His presence. Let this truth build your faith, deepen your trust, and inspire your praise. May the reality of God’s glory remind you that He is powerful, loving, and always at work in your life, even in the smallest moments.