

Week 1 - “Psalm 8 - God’s Awesome Creation”

The Aim of the Session

Psalm 8 is not only a wonderful Psalm of praise but sees David recognise the awesome nature of God’s love for individual people amidst the vastness of Creation. But this has consequences ...

- **Welcome**

Where is your favourite place or view in the world?

- **Worship**

Read Genesis 1 together – stopping at the end of verses 5, 11, 19, 23 and 31 for a brief prayer of thanks for that period of Creation.

- **Word**

Spend some time talking about these things – but please do not get into any debate about Creation/Evolution as it won’t help matters! It may be that you will have to agree to disagree on some things ...

- When you read Genesis 1 or think about the places you have been in the world, what does Creation and the world/universe around us say to you about the character of God?
- What do you “see” when you look into space?
- What things in the natural world challenge your ideas about God?
- Does science help or hinder in this?

Read Psalm 8:1-2. Read the Sermon or a Commentary to understand the difference between the two words used for “Lord” in verse 1.

- ❖ What do the two different words for “Lord” mean and what do they say about God?
- ❖ In what ways does God’s name appear “majestic in the earth (v1)?
- ❖ If God’s glory is above the heavens, then how does it compare to the glory we see in creation (v1)? What are we seeing here on earth of his glory?
- ❖ Why does God use children and infants (v2)? See Matthew 21:15-16.
- ❖ How do they silence those opposed to God?

Read Psalm 8:3-5

- ❖ What is David saying in verse 4 in the light of verse 3?
- ❖ The word “man” refers to “mankind”, whereas “son of man” refers to individuals ... what does this say about God’s perspective on our lives (v4)?
- ❖ Where does the creation of Adam and Eve fit in to the Creation story? Compare verse 5 with Genesis 1:26-27.

Read Psalm 8:6-8

- ❖ What task has God given mankind? (See Genesis 1:28-30)?
- ❖ Compare what David says about man in verse 4 with God’s sovereignty in verse 1 ... what does this say about man’s place and role in the world in which we live?
- ❖ How does an understanding of this differ from a worldly understanding which takes God out of the picture?

Read Psalm 8:9

- ❖ How would you summarise Psalm 8 in one sentence?
- ❖ What does Psalm 8 say about God's character and his love for us?
- ❖ Why does David use "majestic" in verse 9?

- **Works**

This Psalm speaks of not only God's love and majesty in Creation, but also of his desire that we should love and care for what he has created as good stewards of the earth.

- What does this say about the way mankind treats the world?
- How should Christians differ in their understanding?
- What, practically, can you do, as individuals and as a group to show this?
- How does this show our faith to those around us?

Think of some practical examples and pray for each other to fulfil the things which God is calling you to do in life in response to this Psalm. If there is something practical you could do as a group (eg collect recycling together rather than making individual trips to the tip), arrange it at your meeting.

Pray also for the issues you are aware of in the world where Christians could make a difference



Next Time ...

Psalms: Seeking God Through Honesty and Reality

2 - Psalm 23 - "God's Care and Guidance"