

Discussion Guide

questions to help start or continue conversations about faith

Discussion Guides accompany [the weekly message](#).

Passage: Psalm 8

Observation (look at the text):

- Ps. 8:1a (or first half of verse 1) Note that this short Psalm begins and ends with the same declaration. What is David, the writer, declaring?
- Ps. 8 1b-2 How does David identify the locations of God's majestic name and His glory? Who does God use to "sing" or praise Him and what is the impact?
- Ps. 8:3-4 What is David's question to Yahweh?
- Ps. 8:5-8 What is David's surprising conclusion about the role of mere mortals?
- Ps. 8:9 What does David communicate by ending the Psalm (song) with the same line as he began it?

Interpretation (understand what it means):

- Ps. 8:1 How does LORD (all caps = Yahweh) differ from Lord (Elohim)? Google it or look at the footnotes of a study bible. LORD means Yahweh – the I AM used when God personally revealed himself to Moses (Ex. 3;13-14). Elohim is the most frequent Hebrew word for God, occurring over 2,200 times in the Old Testament. When applied to the one true God, the plural is evidently due to the Hebrew idiom of a plural of magnitude or majesty. Elohim is the earliest name of God in the Old Testament. Jesus is quoted as using a form of the name on the cross ([Matt. 27:46](#); [Mk. 15:34](#); see Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani) Copyright © 1987, 2011 by Zondervan.
- Ps. 8:1b-2
 - How does God use His glory in the heavens and children and infants?
 - Compare this verse 8:2 with Matthew 21:14-16. Who and what can declare the majesty of the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- Ps. 8:3-5 What confounds David about the role of mere mortals or NIV Study Bible notes which says "how can God crown puny mortals with glory that is almost godlike"?
- Ps. 8:5 "Yet," Explore the tension between vs 3-4 and verse 5-8.
- Ps. 8:6
 - What role does the LORD give to "mere mortals" and "human beings" (NLT)?
 - See Genesis 1:27-28 for the original assignment of the role to steward the earth.
- Ps. 8:4-6
 - See how Hebrews 2:6-8 and Ephesians 1:22-23 apply Ps. 8:4-6 to Jesus.

- o What progression do you see from Psalms to the New Testament in terms of authority and ruling over?
- Ps. 8:9 As a bookend to the Psalm, David repeats verse 1. After seeking to interpret this song, what does the repetition now mean to you?

Application (apply the Word of God to life):

- Ps. 8:1
 - o What thoughts or feelings does “majestic” or majesty” bring to your mind? What do you describe as majestic?
 - o Do any songs come to mind that help you declare the majesty of God?
 - o How does this Psalm remind you to keep Jesus on the throne and you a “little lower”? Why does that hierarchy matter?
- We looked at how the New Testament interprets this Psalm in Hebrews and Ephesians. How does knowing that God raised Jesus to His right hand and that He rules over the church challenge you to see and understand the enemies, foes, and avengers.
- Who or what are your enemies or foes?
- How do the following verses help you keep them in proper perspective:
 - Ps. 8:3-8
 - o You might picture David lying on a rug on top of the palace on a warm summer evening. He is pondering his day. He sees the night sky and pictures how God used His mere fingers to set the moon and stars in place.
 - o How does this settle your spirit?
 - o Where is your spot for keeping the stars aligned in your life?
 - o What keeps your attitude or perspective in a godly orientation?
 - Ps. 8:4-6
 - o See I Cor. 15:27 – where Paul applies the verse to Jesus. See the larger section in 1 Cor. 15:22-28 where Jesus is the God/man ruler who puts everything under his feet or sovereignty. Sing that majesty!
- What are your takeaways from this short song of David?
- How will it help you declare the majesty of God?
- How does it help you keep your perspectives in order?