

Message Reflections

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Reflections accompany the [weekly message](#).

Please don't notice me.

Have you ever had the experience of being in a classroom and the teacher asks a question to which you do not know the answer? Or worse, a question for which no one in the class has an answer, so you just have to hope you're not the one the teacher notices and calls on?

Or have you ever been at an event where volunteers were being recruited, and you really didn't want to volunteer for that thing? I was at a Girl Scout callout with my oldest daughter back when she was in kindergarten. I didn't know that Girl Scouts only had troops if a parent volunteered to lead the troop; I thought it was more of a drop-off situation. So when the organization leader asked for a volunteer to lead the troop, I was definitely looking anywhere but in her direction. Of course, so was everyone else, and I ended up leading a Girl Scout troop for the next several years.

Or maybe you've been sitting in a church service, and there is something in the sermon that is directed right to you. Like the pastor had a front-row seat to a trailer of your life and wrote the message just for you. Anyone who has a tendency to want to control all aspects of your life probably had that experience this weekend. I'll be honest, that tends to describe me. I like organization, order, and dependability, and it seems to me like a good way to guarantee those things is to orchestrate—aka, control—them. An important reminder this week is that, turns out, there's a hierarchy, and I'm not at the top.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. Psalm 8:1-2

As a general concept, I do know that God is in control of the whole universe. But in the day to day moments of my life, it can be easy to forget and try to do things my way. I was talking recently with a friend about some of the challenging aspects of parenting. One thing that I find challenging is that when my kids experience difficult situations, there is often not much that I can DO about it. I can counsel them toward wise choices and comfort them if they are having a hard time, but there often isn't a course of *action* that involves me. Maybe

that was a purposeful design on God's part, because the thing that I can do in those situations is pray. In those moments, when life feels a little out of control, it's comforting to know that it *is* out of control. Out of my control, and in God's. At the end of the day, it's a good thing that life is outside my control. God is infinite, I am finite, and with that truth in mind, I'd for sure rather have Him in control than me.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? vs. 3-4

For spring break in 2019, my family took a trip to 15 different National Parks in the western US. One of my favorites was Bryce Canyon in Utah. Bryce is in a fairly remote area, and is easy to drive just a bit outside of the populated areas to find a spot with little light pollution. Against the backdrop of the black sky, millions of stars light up the night. It is truly awe-inspiring. Having created the whole galaxy, and the millions of stars in the sky, God saved the best for last, and designed each of the almost 8 billion people on this planet uniquely and in his image.

As we're wrapping up the series on why we sing, this week had kind of a full-circle moment for me. I was maybe 8 or so when I sang my very first solo in church, and the lyrics came from Psalm 8. "When I think about the heavens, the moon and all the stars, I wonder what you ever saw in me. But you took me and you loved me, and you've given me a crown, and now I'll praise your name eternally." (*How Excellent Your Name/Maranatha Music*) My 8-year-old self used to wander around the house singing those lyrics, and even at that age, I remember thinking it was pretty neat that God loved me along with the heavens, moon, and stars. These days, I might be found in my house putting away laundry or making a meal while singing a song that has lyrics describing a similar theme:

*In the hands of the Infinite
As the wounds of the world became His
See the kindness Heaven has for you
And how He's always been drawing you in*

(Perfectly Loved/Rachel Lampa)

Why do we sing? Because this infinite God, who created us, loves us, and cares for us, is worthy of our praise.

Questions for reflection:

- Is there a particular song that calls your heart to worship in this season of your life?
- What song's lyrics have directed you to Biblical truths?
- How will you incorporate singing into your life as a result of this series?

