

**Home Group Notes**  
**Psalm 8**  
**The Majesty of God**

**Context**

The Psalm is one of the 54 that are addressed to The Leader, or Worship Leader. David as king appointed worship leaders – see 1 Chronicles 6 vs 31 to 48. This psalm seems to be addressed to the worship leaders, singers, who assembled the collection of worship psalms for the Temple.

It is according to the Gittith or set for the Gittith. There are a couple of theories about this, but its not clear just what it means; Gath was a Philistine walled city, suggesting that this psalm was to be played on a philistine instrument? Or it could be related to the word for wine-press, and be a psalm for when grapes were harvested?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27opcKxcg1c> The Lyre of Megiddo

The link is to a YouTube video of music played on a recreation of an ancient lyre – the song could easily have been accompanied by music like this. Try and find it to listen to it in your group – maybe read Psalm 8 aloud over the music.

1. Contextually this was a worship song, one of several psalms described this way. When do we read elsewhere in the Bible about times of worship? Look up a few of these references ;**1 Chronicles 16:23-31, John 4 21-24, Revelation 4 8-11, Ephesians 5 19, Psalm 150, Colossians 3 16** and share what they reveal about worship.
2. Worship and singing has been a part of man’s response to God throughout the ages. When we sing we are in part of a rich tradition. Are there any songs that make you aware of the extent of that tradition?
3. Read **Psalm 8**. Turning to the Psalm what do you notice about the first and last verses? Is this helpful as you investigate the psalm? Where is the writer directing the reader’s attention?
4. How does the view of humanity in this psalm compare to your view of yourself and humanity in general? Is the psalmist’s view in agreement with the way the world sees humanity?
5. Read through the psalm and note how many words and phrases refer to God’s creation, things he has created. How many did you get? What are they?
6. Majestic – what images does this word create in your mind? Think of both worldly and spiritual images. Do these images enhance your relationship with God? If “yes” explain why.
7. Read Matthew 18 1-4, does Jesus’s illustration help you understand verse 2 of the Psalm? What is it about childlike faith that can silence our enemies?
8. Questioning is a strong human trait. What are the questions in the heart of the psalm (verse 4)? How would you answer them?

9. The lyrics below are from the song **So Will I** by Hillsong United <https://youtu.be/oLURTVUQoTM> – if possible play this song in your group. Is this your response to the awesome majesty of creation? Or do you have a different response?

If the stars were made to worship so will I  
If the mountains bow in reverence so will I  
If the oceans roar Your greatness so will I  
For if everything exists to lift You high so will I  
If the wind goes where You send it so will I  
If the rocks cry out in silence so will I.

10. What is the crown of God’s creation? Where does humanity fit in to God’s ordered universe? (Verse 5 “a little lower than God” is often translated as a little lower than the Angels.)
11. We are given responsibility for creation. The creator blesses us, his pride and joy, with dominion over the rest of creation. This is a huge privilege and an honour. Do you feel that humanity is responding well to this honour and treating creation well? Give examples of good and bad stewardship if you can.
12. Challenge 1 – what one thing can you do this week to honour creation in your daily life?
13. Challenge 2 – God the Creator blessed us with creativity what can you do to be more creative this week. Ideas;
  - Rewrite this psalm.
  - Write your own psalm, it could be one of praise or lament, full of joy or sorrow.
  - If you are artistic or musical draw or paint a picture, write a melody.
  - You may not feel talented but enjoy music or literature or art. Think of a song or painting or poem or book that expresses your delight in creation.
  - Share your ideas with the group either now or at this meeting.
14. End the study in Prayer, start by reading the last verse of the psalm aloud, together as a cry of praise to the one who made everything, and who is coming back to make it perfect.

*O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*Prayer ideas*

*Pray for group members to enjoy the glory of creation this week.*

*Pray for the church as we study the psalms, help us all grow in knowledge and understanding of them and how they speak to our lives today.*

*Pray for God’s creation that in so many ways is being tortured and abused by us, that we may grow in respect and honour for the trust he has placed in us.*