

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **September 26, 2021** sermon, "Lord of the environment." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 8) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER GOD'S DESIGN IN THIS UNIVERSE, NOTE . . .

1. How God's majestic name is revealed. (1, 2, 9)
 - a. God's power and creativity fills up the entire universe.
 - b. God's foes will struggle and push back, but God can be seen everywhere.
2. How God's personal care is contemplated. (3-4)
 - a. Surrounded by trouble and stress, David looks up to God.
 - b. What is man that God is mindful of us and cares for us?
 - i. In the quest for significance note that God is significant.
 - ii. Note that the highest significance is being cared for by God.
 - c. ON-RAMPS in talking about the environment with our friends . . .
 - i. The created world was created GOOD. (Gen 1:31)
 - ii. The created world is now GROANING because of the effect of sin. (Rom 8:22)
 - iii. The created world will be GLORIFIED. (restored, Rom 8:21)
3. How God's created order is managed. (5-8)
 - a. God has delegated the management of his world to people.
 - i. People have the privilege of managing what belongs to God.
 - ii. Mankind is made in the image of God is the pinnacle of God's creation.
 - b. Note the connection between creation (groaning) and the coming new creation (glory).

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God's foes attempt to see this world separated from God. Their objections are not intellectual, but volitional, because people want reasons to not submit to God. How can we enter into conversations with God's foes which are winsome, helpful and kind?
2. Based on #2, above: Man is at the same time very small and very important. God placed us at the absolute pinnacle of his "very good" created world. How can we engage in conversations with unbelievers about the importance of mankind with humility?
3. Based on #2, above: How would you begin a conversation with a friend about the idea that God made everything GOOD? What about the current situation, namely that the created world is GROANING? And what about God's promise that one day our environment will return to its original GLORY through his promise and power?
4. Based on #3, above: How can we take seriously our role in managing the environment? In what ways do Christians have a responsibility to manage the "groaning" creation? While we do not worship the environment, how can we protect, preserve and manage it well?