

## LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

## *Psalms Series*

These questions are for the **August 27, 2023** message, "As the creation sings." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 148) together out loud.

### Passage Outline

ALL-ENCOMPASSING PRAISE TO THE LORD INCLUDES . . .

1. The praise being offered by the heavens. (1-6)
  - a. There are three seasons associated with God's work:
    - i. GOOD: he made everything good.
    - ii. GROAN: sin has brought death for every human and decay in all creation.
    - iii. GLORY: God will set everything right for all who know him. Sin will be removed and all of creation will be renewed forever, to the praise of God's name.
  - b. The heavens (even during the "groan" phase) sing God's praises.
  - c. In fact, God's wonderful works are intended for this purpose: "Praise the LORD!"
2. The praise being offered by the earth. (7-12)
  - a. These verses underscore what God did during days 3-6 of the creation account.
  - b. Let the mountains, the rivers, the animal kingdom and all kings praise the Lord.
3. The praise being offered by the redeemed. (13-14)
  - a. Those who know and love God by faith are in the privileged position of praising him.
  - b. Let those who know him praise him alone, and none other.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Though creation is fallen, and "groaning" as it awaits renewal (Rom 8:18-22), even in this state, it sings a song of praise to God, the Creator. Talk about aspects of "sun, moon and stars" which sing a clear song of praise to the LORD in your heart.
2. Based on #1, above: Science and Christian faith do not conflict, and in fact, they must walk together. Why is it so important for Christians to continue to assume seats of influence and respect at the seats of science, science education and research?
3. Based on #2, above: Talk about aspects of earth, waterways, mountains and ecology which, though fallen, still offer praise to God. Kings and politicians are here commanded to praise the Lord. Give an example that encourages you of kings or princes (vv. 11-12) who praise the LORD.
4. Based on #3, above: Those who are redeemed should not waste any time criticizing or lamenting the things and people in this world that do not praise the LORD. Instead, we are given the task of specific and faithful praise. How are you actively deciding to spend less time criticizing the fallen world and more time praising the LORD? How can we help you?