

Group discussion *Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”*

Read Psalm 8 aloud. Maybe read it 2-3 times from different versions.

1. When have you been amazed about God? Why?

When you are struck by God’s majesty, how do you express your amazement?

How did the ancient psalmists express their wonder at God?

What could infants or small children teach us about praising God?

2. What position do humans hold in creation? Who is above us? Who is below us?

How worthy are we of this position? Why is God “mindful of us”?

What are some situations where it helps to understand your place? How does it create chaos when the chain of command is confusing?
Roles where individuality is great: artists, inventors, parenting, writing.
Tasks where structure and roles are vital: airplane pilots, fire fighters, military, postal service, manufacturing, etc.

3. Looking up – How does it help you to know God is over you?

How might it affect your actions to remember God is over you?

4. Looking around – How does it affect you to know that God has entrusted creation to our care?

What are some parts of creation under your control?

How could loving other people be part of loving God’s creation?

What are some ways people have messed up God’s creation? Can you give examples of people doing a good job with creation?

5. How does following Jesus help us do a better job as rulers of creation?

What are some areas of your life where you could be a better steward of God’s creation?

6. How does your job make it harder for you to honor God?

How could your job relate to caring for God’s creation?

7. How do you feel about the “over/under” language from Psalm 8 and this discussion?

How could ownership words like “dominion” or “ruler” cause us to do a poor job as caretakers of God’s creation?
“It’s my land. I can cut it down, dam it up or pollute it if I want to...”

What words might better describe our role in creation? *Instead of own, rule, and dominate, what if we used nurturing words like caretaker, steward, or partner? Maybe the biblical concept of stewardship would help – we don’t own creation, we just use it for awhile.*

† **The million-dollar question** *If you ask only one question, this is it. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It’s okay to pass, but even the quiet people deserve a chance to respond.*

As you reflect on Psalm 8, which role do you need to work on – praising God, caring for creation, or something else?

Resources

Bible notes

- Some related texts are Genesis 1:26-2:25 and Hebrews 2.
- Notice that the word “Lord” is different in verse 1. LORD = Yahweh (God’s name) and Lord = master or boss. So this Psalm declares that Yahweh is the true God, not Baal, Dagon, Asherah, or Zeus.

Kid-friendly activity...kids & adults growing together.
Celebrate the good things God has done this last week!

Ask the group to act out Psalm 8 as you read aloud.
Pause along the way to acknowledge outstanding performances (most majestic pose, best silent foe, scariest beast, etc.)

What is this Psalm about?
Break it down, phrase by phrase.

Who is above people?

Who do people rule over?

How should this affect the way we live?



September 6, 2009

LIFE Group Guide

Psalm 8 – Labor

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme for this discussion: **connecting our faith and our work.**

Humans wonder about our place in the universe. Psalm 8 suggests we occupy a place in the middle - lower than God and other heavenly beings but ruling over creation. You could tie this discussion to your group members' celebration of Labor Day.

Leadership tip: The best sound you can hear in a LIFE group – laughter! It breaks down tension and draws people together. Have a joyful, even playful, spirit as you lead the discussion. It will put everyone in a better frame of mind to hear a word from God and to encourage one another.

I. Relate *Use a few of these to introduce the theme and “break the ice.” No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage individuals through these questions.*

- ❖ How will you celebrate Labor Day?
- ❖ Which is more comfortable for you – an environment with structure (predictable) or one with flexibility (variety)?
- ❖ How does your preference for structure/flexibility show up in choices you have made (job, schedule, family, etc.)?
- ❖ Sing “How Great Thou Art!”