

Small Group Discussion + Leader Guide

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Preached By: Matt Alexander

“The Majestic Name of Yahweh”

Summer in the Psalms Series #1

Psalms 8:1-9

OPENING PRAYER & ICEBREAKER

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you experienced God's majesty in creation—standing by the ocean, under the stars, on a mountain, or watching a sunrise. What did that moment stir in you?

SERMON OVERVIEW

In Psalm 8, David looks at creation and is overwhelmed by God's glory. But this psalm is about more than just creation—it reveals:

- The glory of God displayed in creation
- The dignity God has given to humanity
- The dominion (stewardship) God assigned to mankind
- The distortion of sin and our redemption through Christ

David begins and ends with worship: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

KEY SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 8:1-9 together as a group.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Display of His Glory (v. 1, 3, 9)

Questions:

- What does it mean that God's name is "majestic"? How does God's name represent His character, authority, and nature?
- David says the universe is "the work of [God's] fingers." What does this language tell us about God's power and creativity?
- How does your view of God affect your worship, faith, and daily living?
- A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Do you agree? Why or why not?

Reflection: Romans 1:20 says God's "invisible attributes... have been clearly perceived" through creation. How does creation reveal God to you personally?

2. The Dignity Afforded to Man (v. 2, 4-5)

Questions:

- Why does David ask, "What is man that you are mindful of him?" What does this reveal about humanity's place in creation?
- According to verse 5, humanity is "crowned with glory and honor." What does this mean for how we view ourselves and others?
- Our culture swings between arrogance ("I am my own god") and despair ("My life means nothing"). How does Psalm 8 correct both extremes?
- How does knowing you are made in God's image change the way you see your value and purpose?

Application: Where do you tend to find your worth—achievements, success, appearance, others' opinions? How can you anchor your identity in being created by God instead?

3. The Dominion Assigned to Man (v. 6-8)

Questions:

- What does biblical "dominion" mean? How is it different from abusive control or passive avoidance?
- Genesis 1:26 says God gave humanity dominion to steward creation. What are some areas of life God has entrusted to your care (family, work, resources, influence)?
- The sermon mentioned that biblical manhood is "neither tyranny nor passivity" but "faithful stewardship under God." How does this apply to everyone, not just men?
- Warren Wiersbe said, "Man is a creature of dignity because he was made in the image of God, but he is also a creature of responsibility because God gave him dominion over creation." How do dignity and responsibility go together?

Reflection: What has God entrusted to you that you need to steward more faithfully?

4. The Distortion of Man Redeemed in Christ (Genesis 3; Hebrews 2)

Questions:

- Genesis 3 describes the fall. How did sin distort humanity's dignity and dominion?
- Read Hebrews 2:5-9. How does Jesus fulfill what humanity failed to accomplish?
- The sermon emphasized, "Where Adam failed, Christ succeeded." What does this mean for your life today?
- The sermon declared repeatedly, "Jesus is better!" What stood out to you from that section? What lesser things are you tempted to cling to instead of Jesus?

Application: Is there anything in your life you're holding onto that you need to let go of because Jesus is better?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Worship begins with a right view of God. When we see God's majesty, we respond with humble adoration.
2. Your dignity is rooted in being created by God—not in your achievements, abilities, or success. Every person matters because every person is made in God's image.
3. God has entrusted you with stewardship. You have influence, resources, relationships, and opportunities that belong to God. Steward them faithfully.
4. Jesus is the better Adam. Where humanity failed, Christ succeeded. Through Him, sinners are redeemed, image-bearers are restored, and dominion will one day be fully realized.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week:

1. Spend time in creation. Take a walk, watch a sunset, sit under the stars. Let creation lead you to worship the Creator.
2. Reflect on your identity. Write down areas where you've been finding worth in the wrong places. Pray and ask God to help you anchor your identity in Him.
3. Evaluate your stewardship. What has God entrusted to you? Ask Him to show you one area where you can be a more faithful steward this week.
4. Declare "Jesus is better!" When you're tempted by lesser things—success, comfort, approval, control—remind yourself that Jesus is better and more satisfying.

5. Memorize Psalm 8:1 — "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Praise God for His majestic name and the glory displayed in creation
- Thank God for the dignity and purpose He's given you as His image-bearer
- Confess areas where you've failed to steward what He's entrusted to you
- Ask God to help you see Jesus as better than anything this world offers
- Pray for each other to live faithfully under God's authority this week

CLOSING THOUGHT

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

When we behold His glory, understand our dignity, embrace our responsibility, and experience redemption in Christ—the only right response is worship.

Jesus is better!

For further study: Read Genesis 1-3, Romans 8:18-25, and Hebrews 2:5-18