

## MONDAY – What We Praise

What type of people get the most praise in the news and online?

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If someone is a top athlete or entertainer, you may find yourself talking about them because you love how hard they work or how well they do their job. When we say things like—"Did you see that amazing touchdown he made?" Or "I love her latest song!" we are praising people for how well they do what they do. God designed us to notice when things are done well and to respond to what we see. When a stadium full of people start cheering wildly, they are responding to something they are wild about. We are designed to notice and respond with approval, applause, and admiration.

Remember how God responded every day to the good things He created? "God saw that it was good." God noticed and responded to his own work with approval and praise. When have you created or performed in a way that you thought was good?

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Can you remember times you have created or performed something that was NOT good? Maybe it was because you were trying something new to you and you still needed to develop skills. When God, who is perfect, does something—He does it perfectly. Even though we see things on earth only after sin and the curse, we still find ourselves responding to God's creation with admiration and approval.

Have you ever seen a sunrise or sunset that just blew you away with how amazing the colors were? Have you ever been on a mountain top or by an ocean and found yourself just amazed by the hugeness or greatness of what you see? Have you ever seen a foal or calf being born? Describe a time when something in nature amazed you. (Use the back if you need more room.)

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David was a man in Bible times who responded to things he noticed in nature and in life by writing songs about them. His were directed to God, the one who created all. How does David describe God's name in Psalm 8:1?

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Something majestic is impressive or beautiful. When this Psalm says that God's name fills the earth it means that God's full reputation is obvious everywhere.

## TUESDAY – Worthy of Honor and Respect

What topics, people, or brands excite you? How can your friends and family tell you are excited?

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The earth is full of things to get excited about—good coffee, good music, good food, good athletes, good books, good movies, etc. However, none of these things are THE GREATEST. There is only one who is the greatest--God.

Have you ever seen sunlight sparkle on the water of a lake or ocean? You can't really compare those tiny sparkles that last only a moment to the amazing light of the sun. Even so, the things we are amazed at on earth are like those tiny sparkles in comparison to how amazing God is.

You may find it a lot easier to praise your favorite band or sports team than to praise God. All your life you have heard people praising things on earth. If we are going to learning how to praise God for all He is worth, it will help to pay attention to someone like David in the Bible who invested hours writing songs about how to praise God.

Read Psalm 8:1-3. What does David notice in the night sky that was put there by God?

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Read Psalm 8:4. What is something God thinks and cares about that makes David amazed?

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David noticed that the night sky is vast and huge and full of stars put in place by God. How can a God who made something like our massive universe care about us humans? We are tiny compared to a star.

Read Psalm 8:5. What two things does God crown humans with?

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David wrote this song to remind all of us that every single person who has ever lived or will ever live on earth is designed to have dignity. That means every human is designed to be worthy of honor and respect. When is a time you remember someone treating you with honor and respect? (If you can't think of a time, describe how it would feel to have someone show you respect.)

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## WEDNESDAY – You Have Dignity

You may have known that God was worthy of the highest glory and honor, but have you thought much about how humans are designed by God to have dignity and should always be treated with honor and respect? Explain.

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If humans were just accidents that happened through a random process of evolution, would there be any reason to show respect for humans?

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Why do you think so many people show disrespects to those who are handicapped or not beautiful or popular in our society?

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When Hitler killed off Jewish people in World War 2, what was he revealing about his belief in the value of human life?

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Do you find it hard to believe that you have dignity and should be respected and honored just for being human? Explain.

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Our dignity and value come directly from our Creator, God. They are a gift from God. None of us have to prove our worth by what we accomplish or by who accepts us. God gives us our dignity and worth when He creates us.

Read Genesis 1:26-27. What did God say he wanted humans to be like?

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We are made in the image of the one with the greatest dignity who deserves the most respect and honor. Our human dignity is God's gift to us so we can show others a little about what He is like. He created both man and woman to both have dignity and both have a valuable roll of showing what He is like.

Is it hard for you to understand that you have dignity and should be treated with respect? Explain.

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## THURSDAY – Made to Rule

Read Psalm 8: 1-5.

Not only did God give us dignity, but He gave us a job to do. Read Psalm 8:5. What is the word that starts with a c? \_\_\_\_\_

If someone is wearing a c \_\_\_\_\_, they are the rulers. Read Psalm 8:6. What did God make human beings to rule over?

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Read Psalm 8:7-8. What are the five things that humans are to rule over?

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Flocks and herd are animals like sheep and cattle. It's obvious if a rancher has a herd of cattle or a flock of sheep, that the rancher is ruling over those. But God also put humans in charge of all the wild animals, birds, and fish.

Many cultures worship animals, birds, and fish. Worshiping these created things as if they have power over humans is all out of order. God never intended humans to worship the earth or animals or to take advantage of the earth or the animals.

Have you ever had an animal as pet? What did you own? Were you (or are you) a good caretaker of your pet?

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If you could have any animal in the world as a pet, what would you like to have?

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Because sin came into the world, the good way God set it up was corrupted. Have you known people who were not good at ruling over animals or over the resources of the earth? Explain.

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What are ways humans can show honor for God by how they care for animals and birds?

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## FRIDAY – Reflect

Read all of Psalm 8. Copy verse 9.

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When people are wildly popular or in highest positions of power, they often look down on others as insignificant. God is in the absolute highest position of power—far above any human ruler. Because of that, you might think he wouldn't have time to be bothered by humans. Psalm 8 lets us know that nothing could be farther from the truth.

Because dignity is something God gives to all humans, how should humans treat one another?

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Who do you find it challenging to treat with honor and respect? Why?

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Sometimes people say they will not respect someone until that person earns their respect. How does that line up with the truth that God created all of us with dignity?

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Copy your favorite verse from Psalm 8.

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Looking back on this week—what is something you learned or thought about in a new way?

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