A dried leaf on a stem is positioned on the left side of the page, extending from the top left towards the bottom left. The leaf is dark brown and appears to be a single leaf on a thin stem. The background is a light, textured surface with subtle, wavy patterns in shades of beige and cream.

# God's Majesty and Human Dignity

## Lesson 5




# Power of Poetry

- Artistic expression of human observations, emotions, and desires
- Timeless
- Emotive
  - We have all observed a man or woman moved to tears by hearing just a line.
    - “In Flanders field . . .”
    - “Give me your tired, your poor . . .”
    - “On a hill far away . . .”
    - “The Lord is my Shepherd . . .”



# Power of Poetry

- Poetry is a way to wrap big ideas in very small but beautiful packages.
- In our study today we begin opening some of those big ideas in the small packages of the Psalms.




# Lesson Outline

## Introduction

A. Ultimate Questions

B. Lesson Background



# Lesson Outline

## I. Divine Excellency (Psalm 8:1, 2)


A. Preeminence in Earth and Heaven (v. 1)

B. Paradoxical Power (v. 2)

# What Do You Think?

- If God's glory is already "above the heavens," how can we glorify Him as other psalms call us to do?
- Talking Points for Your Discussion
  - Isaiah 42:12; Jeremiah 13:16; Revelation 4:9; 14:7
  - Glory as "stuff" vs. glory as "recognition"
  - Obedience, praise, and worship as they relate to glory





# Lesson Outline

## II. Human Insignificance (Psalm 8:3, 4)


A. Speck in the Universe (v. 3)

B. Puzzle in the Cosmos (v. 4)


# What Do You Think?

- What comes to mind when we think of someone working with his or her fingers? What could this imply about the creation and the Creator?
- Talking Points for Your Discussion
  - Attention to Detail
  - Advance planning



A long-exposure photograph of a night sky showing star trails. The stars have moved in circular patterns around a central point, creating a sense of rotation. The sky is a deep blue, and the foreground is filled with the dark silhouettes of trees and branches. The text is centered over the star trails.

# SEE THE FINGERPRINT OF GOD



# Lesson Outline

## III. Human Responsibility (Psalm 8:5-9)

A. Position of Dignity (v. 5)

B. Position of Responsibility (vv. 6-8)

C. Position of Praise (v. 9)



# What Do You Think?


- How does popular culture view angels? What's wrong and right with those ideas?
- Talking Points for Your Discussion
  - Cultural ideas that match the Bible
  - Cultural ideas that contradict the Bible
  - Cultural ideas that cannot be confirmed or refuted by the Bible

# What Do You Think?

- What are some ways you can exercise your “dominion” role in a godly manner?
- Talking Points for Your Discussion
  - Stewardship of renewable resources
  - Stewardship of nonrenewable resources
  - Proper relationship to pets

# What Do You Think?

- What can you do this week to proclaim the excellent nature of God's name?
- Talking Points for Your Discussion
  - At home
  - At work or school
  - During recreational activities



# Lesson Outline

## Conclusion

A. Human Animals?

B. Prayer

C. Thought to Remember





# Big or Little?

In line with the proposition that poetry allows big ideas to be put into small packages, decide whether each of the following entities from today's text is "big" or "little."

# Big or Little?

- *Lord*
- *Name*
- *Earth*
- *Glory*
- *Heavens*
- *Mouth*

- *Babes*
- *Strength*
- *Enemies*
- *Avenger*
- *Fingers*
- *Moon*

# Big or Little?

- *Stars*
- *Man*
- *Angels*
- *Honor*
- *Dominion*
- *Hands*

- *Feet*
- *Beasts*
- *Fowl*
- *Fish*
- *Sea*
- *Paths*

# Big or Little

- Now read today's text in Psalm 8:1-9, and see whether you change your mind about any.
- Some have suggested that Psalm 8 follows an alternating pattern of Big/Little. See what you think.

# Big or Little

- Psalm 8:1
- Emphasis/subject: God

Big or Little?

# Big or Little

- Psalm 8:2
- Emphasis/subject: Children

Big or Little?



# Big or Little

- Psalm 8:3
- Emphasis/subject: The Universe

Big or Little?

# Big or Little

- Psalm 8:4
- Emphasis/subject: Man

Big or Little?

# Big or Little

- Psalm 8:5
- Emphasis/subject: Angels

Big or Little?



# Big or Little

- Psalm 8:6-8
- Emphasis/subject: Animals and Other Creatures

Big or Little?



# Big or Little

- Psalm 8:9
- Emphasis/subject: The Majesty and Excellence of God's Name

Big or Little?

- Is there a Big/Little pattern?

# What Is Man?

- The Psalmist is startled and amazed that the God of the universe even notices, much less cares for, lowly man. See verses 4, 5.
- Many thinkers and wags have decided their own answer to the Psalmist's question.



# What Is Man?

● “Man is nature’s sole mistake.”

--W. S. Gilbert

● “[Man] is a brute, only more intelligent than the other brutes; a blind prey to impulses.”

--Thomas A. Huxley

# What Is Man?

- “Man is God’s highest present development. He is the latest thing in God.”

--Samuel Butler

- “Man—a creature made at the end of the week’s work when God was tired.”

--Mark Twain

# What Is Man?

● “Man is the measure of all things.”

--Protagoras

● “Man is a blind, witless, low-brow anthropocentric clod who inflicts lesions on the earth.”

--Ian McHarg

# What Is Man?

● “Man . . . of all the beasts of prey [is] . . . the only one that preys systematically on its own species.”

--William James

# What Is Man?

- The Psalmist understands by the Spirit:
  - We are made by God
  - We are only a little lower than the heavenly beings such as angels
  - We are crowned with glory and honor



# Thought to Remember

God has granted us  
both authority and responsibility.





Next Week's Lesson

# **GOD'S PERFECT LAW**