



SUMMER in the PSALMS

June 4, 2023

THE HEAVENS DECLARE

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

1

What opportunities have you had to experience God's glory in creation? Does nature prompt you to see the glory of God?

2

In what sense does creation "declare" the glory of God? How is God's revelation of himself through creation an act of common grace?

3

We can make a distinction between general revelation and special revelation. Nature is a general revelation—creation "reveals knowledge" and points to the existence of a Creator. However, what are the limits of general revelation? What errors might humans fall into if they take only general revelation without the special revelation of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

4

Paul uses this passage to contend that God's "eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world" and so those who reject him are "without excuse" (Rom. 1:18-20; cf Rom. 10:18-19). What should be the appropriate response to perceiving the awesomeness of creation? How do we progress from a general revelation to the the special revelation of the gospel?

5

In verses 4-5, David personifies the sun, comparing it to “a bridegroom” and “a strong man.” Why might David have chosen these two comparisons?

6

The pagan cultures that surrounded Israel worshiped the sun itself. How does the psalm present the sun as important, but not divine?

7

In his commentary, Matthew Henry points to two opposing errors that this psalm refutes: atheism--the position of those “who see there is a heaven and yet say, ‘There is no God,’ who see the effect and yet say, ‘There is no cause’”--and idolatry--the stance of those who “gave that glory to the lights of heaven which those very lights directed them to give to God only, the Father of lights.” Do we see either atheism or idolatry in the way our culture views creation today?

8

Our neighbors have all experienced the general revelation of creation. How can we think missionally about moving them from this general revelation of creation to the special revelation of the gospel? How does the common experience of creation serve as an evangelistic tool?

