



NEWCASTLE DIOCESE GENEROSITY WEEK 2024

Sermon Starter

Psalm 8

‘Just A Little Lower Than
The Angels’

Psalm 8

- 1 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.
- 2 Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.
- 3 When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
- 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them? [c]
- 5 You have made them [d] a little lower than the angels [e]
and crowned them [f] with glory and honor.
- 6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their [g] feet:
- 7 all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
- 8 the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.
- 9 Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Notes

Start off with a story in which someone behaves in the same way as one of their parents, or where there is a clear case of a family likeness.

Many people know we're created in the image of God, but Psalm 8 says we're "a little lower than the angels". Common perception is that we're just a bit higher than animals. But instead we should start with God and just drop down a bit. And God is generous – overwhelmingly so. Which means we are too. We are designed to be "a chip off the old block" and behave just like He does.

Our gifts should always be our own choice and never through compulsion. It doesn't feel so meaningful if we receive a gift but know the donor's heart wasn't in it. However, excluding ourselves from giving is denying ourselves the ability to take on more of God's character and curtailing part of our discipleship.

We often find, when we start to give, we often find a little goes a long way. The feeding of the 5,000 starts with a boy giving what he had. Add any contemporary examples you are familiar with, but be careful to stress this should never be taken as a formula to be relied on and our gift should be honest and genuine.

Sometimes we want to give even though we ourselves are facing extreme poverty, the Macedonian Christians referred to in 2 Corinthians 8 is an example.

So we invite listeners to consider prayerfully and honestly whether being created in the image of a generous God is reflected in what we are giving to our local parish Church. Then conclude by drawing listeners back to the generosity of God, joining with the Psalmist in declaring "Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"