

Part 2 – Psalm 148  
The Chorus of Creation  
Leader's Guide  
(Video 19 minutes)

Warm up questions pre-video: (20 minutes)

Read John 16:33

- ❖ As Christians living in a sinful world are we guaranteed peace and harmony in the lives we lead?
  - No, in this world our Lord promises us suffering and distress.
  - Due to our sin we are born to live to dying every day. Through the grace of Christ we receive the gift of eternal life and our salvation in Christ's kingdom to come.
- ❖ What does it mean to "lament"?
  - To express mourning or grief.
  - To suffer distress deeply and often vocally.
- ❖ Do we lament in our lives?
  - Yes, during times of sorrow and troubles.
  - Funerals, illnesses times of personal sorrow.
  - Too often we lament about our lives in general.

Read John 3:16–18

Read question 117 of Luther's Small Catechism

- ❖ As Christians what does the phrase "We should live our lives gratefully" mean?
  - Living our lives as God's people according to his law and by his gospel.
  - Living as our Lord's blessed human creations.
  - Moving from a part of all of God's creation to a special part of God's creation.

Read Matthew 22:36–39

Read questions 45–47 of Luther's Small Catechism

- ❖ As Christians are we to praise our Lord just in church or should our praise be part of our daily lives?
  - We praise our Lord in our daily lives by loving our neighbors.
  - We praise our Lord in our daily lives by doing good for others.
  - We praise our Lord in our daily lives with sharing the message of the gospel in our actions.

Read Psalm 148

Post-video follow up questions: (15 minutes)

- ❖ Psalm 148 describes “all creation” praising the Lord. From verse 1 and verse 7 what areas of God’s creation do these point to?
  - Verse 1 – The heavens.
  - Verse 7 – The earth.
  - Our God is Lord over all creation.
  
- ❖ Living in faith, trusting in the promises of God, when we read the Psalter (the Book of Psalms) where does our lamenting direct us?
  - Psalms 145–150.
  - From sorrow to praise.
  - From sinner to saint.
  - The different stages of our Christian life.
  
- ❖ What does this faith mean in our lives?
  - God’s promises in our lives are valid and his promise of our salvation is true.
  
- ❖ According to the discussion, are our lives as Christians more like a comedy or a tragedy? And why?
  - In a tragedy actions begin with the idea that something bad will happen next. No matter what is happening, even the good, there is the shadow of the bad over them.
  - In a comedy disasters may occur but even these lose their darkness because you know that things are going to be all right in the end.
  - As Christians we know that bad things are going to occur in our lives but through faith we live in the knowledge that through Christ all things in the end will be made right again.
  
- ❖ What is the difference between how God treats his creation and how those of the world treat others who live in God’s creation?
  - God sees through the eyes of love. Man sees through the eyes of sin.
  - The world beats us down.
  - The world dehumanizes people (Henry Ford story).
  
- ❖ How does this psalm impact our lives? How does it impact our worship life?
  - As God’s creation we are part of something special.
  - Being a Christian is a verb not a noun.
  - As Christ’s own we live always in the baptismal grace of our Lord.
  - Our vocation, what we do every day, matters to God.