

Week 2: Recognizing our Place in the Biblical Narrative

God provides lavishly for his entire creation (of which we are a part).

Warm Up Activity:

How would you categorize?

Which category does Jesus fit in? Why?

Notes:

- What are the two themes exemplified by Psalms 104 and 148?
- How can we, in our current context, in our daily individual lives, or as a congregation recognize the lavish care we, along with all of creation, are receiving from God?
- How can we, in our current context, in our daily lives, or as a congregation join in the praise of God along with all of creation?

This week

Read:

Pages 30–45 in the large version of Together With All Creatures.

For Your Devotions:

Monday: Read Job 39

- What images in this text highlight God's attention to detail and his delight in it (e.g., the wings of the ostrich)?
- What does this say about God's relationship to creation?
- What does it mean that man does not appear as an example in this chapter, and what does this say about how we view our own place within creation?

Tuesday: Read Psalm 139

- What are the details that God knows about me, according to this Psalm?
- Why does the psalmist consider himself wonderfully made?
- What do you most marvel about with regard to our human creaturely existence?

Wednesday: Read Luke 12:22–31

- What comes to mind when you think of crows and ravens? Loud? Raucous? Unattractive? Scavengers?
- Why do you think that Jesus would choose ravens as an illustration?
- What do you see in creation that confirms what Jesus says about God's provision for all of his creatures? Give one or two examples.

Thursday: Read Psalm 65

- Why does the psalmist say in verse 1 that praise is due God?
- For which specific works of God does the psalmist praise God?
- What do I see in the creation around me for which I might praise God?

Friday: Read Psalm 98

- What has God done for which he is being praised in this psalm?
- How do humans praise God, and how does the non-human creation praise God?
- Pay attention in the next day to the voices and sounds of creation. In what ways are they praising God? How does this change the way you think about these elements of creation?

Saturday: Read Revelation 5:11–14

- Why is the Lamb worthy of glory and praise? What has he done?
- Who is gathered around the Lamb offering up thanks and praise?
- Picture yourself for a moment surrounded by all your favorite (and maybe not so favorite) creatures praising Christ in the age to come.