



SESSION 3

What is Man?

LOOKING BACK TO THE STUDY OF PSALM 32

How easy is it for you to confess to God? How difficult is it?

Do you agree with Pastor Curtis' comment in his August 11 sermon on Psalm 32 that our culture no longer has a Biblical sense of sin. Why or why not? How is this manifested in our culture?

Discuss whether this is hard or easy to believe: the living God deeply desires our happiness because of what has happened through Jesus.

READ ALOUD | PSALM 8

Head | 15–20 Minutes

Observe the text and the author's main points

- How would you describe the tone of the psalm? What can you infer about the psalm's purpose?
- What does Psalm 8 tell us about God's order of creation? What does the psalm teach us about man's place within this order?
- Verses 4-8 describes man's purpose in relation to the rest of creation. Practically speaking, what does it mean that mankind has been given 'dominion' over the works of God's hands? Give examples.

Heart | 15–20 Minutes

Envision how the text—when applied—might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors

- Compare and contrast how you think about the concepts of authority and stewardship. What sort of people, job-titles, or social status come to mind when thinking about authority? About stewardship?
- How does our faithful work, in both the sensational and in the mundane areas of life, serve our created purpose of stewarding the whole of creation?

Hands | 10 Minutes

Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others.

- What piece of creation has the Lord placed you in a position of authority or influence to steward?
- Share thoughts and ideas about how you reflect God's glory through the mundane rhythms of your life.

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- In light of the majesty of God highlighted in Psalm 8, especially at the beginning and end of it, for what will you praise God? How will you praise God?
- Read and meditate on the psalm we will be studying next week: Psalm 27. In preparation for the sermon on August 25, what do you glean from this psalm about God? What is your response?
- Review Psalm 1 and Psalm 32. What do you remember from our study of them? How has what you learned impacted your life and your relationship with God?

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- **FPC Back to School** - Pray for FPC children, friends, parents, teachers, administrators, school nurses and others as schools start across Houston.
- **Main Street Ministries - Weekly Family Friendly Volunteer Opportunity - Saturday Mornings - 8:30-10:30 AM** - Volunteers are needed for the Main Street Ministries Community Garden. Come plant and harvest vegetables, fruits, and herbs that benefit needy community members. Bring your water bottle and a smile. RSVP by emailing Carrie Sadler at csadler@msmhouston.org.
- **Mission Partners Back to School** - Many of our Mission Partners have initiatives to support children returning to school. To find these community service projects or other charitable activities, go to fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities or contact Madi Weir, Missions Coordinator, at mweir@fpchouston.org.

Reaching Beyond

- **August 16-26** - FPC staff and covenant partners will travel to Gaba, Uganda to speak at and attend a conference, visit a sister village, and connect with friends from Africa Renewal Ministries (ARM). Please hold the following individuals traveling on this mission trip to Africa in prayer: Pastor Curtis Bronzan, Fielding Cocke, Walter Light, David and Amy McCarty, Ann Smith, and Mary-Floye Federer
 - For safety and protection as they travel;
 - For good health and stamina throughout the trip;
 - For the team to be an encouragement and blessing to all;
 - For God to use each team member in unique and special ways;
 - For each team member to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit;
 - For all hearts to be softened through prayer and reflection;

- For the love and gospel of Christ to shine through the team on our African brothers and sisters.
- **August 26** - Prestige Learning Institute (PLI) Volunteer Orientation - PLI welcomes and empowers refugees and immigrants from over 51 countries representing 42+ languages. Learn more about PLI and volunteer opportunities at this orientation. To RSVP email: volunteer@prestigelearninginstitute.org.