Heart Applications -- Nature:

**Getting to Know You:**

Do you have a favorite place in nature where you can especially connect with God? What is special about that place?

 **Read:** Psalm 148    New International Version (NIV)

***1 “****Praise the Lord.*

*Praise the Lord from the heavens;
    praise him in the heights above.****2****Praise him, all his angels;
    praise him, all his heavenly hosts.****3****Praise him, sun and moon;
    praise him, all you shining stars.****4****Praise him, you highest heavens
    and you waters above the skies.*

***5****Let them praise the name of the Lord,
    for at his command they were created,****6****and he established them for ever and ever—
    he issued a decree that will never pass away.*

***7****Praise the Lord from the earth,
    you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,****8****lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
    stormy winds that do his bidding,****9****you mountains and all hills,
    fruit trees and all cedars,****10****wild animals and all cattle,
    small creatures and flying birds,****11****kings of the earth and all nations,
    you princes and all rulers on earth,****12****young men and women,
    old men and children.*

***13****Let them praise the name of the Lord,
    for his name alone is exalted;
    his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.****14****And he has raised up for his people a horn,
    the praise of all his faithful servants,
    of Israel, the people close to his heart.*

*Praise the Lord.”*

**Discuss:**

1. Who is called to praise the Lord? Make a list of everyone or everything that is called to praise the Lord in this psalm.
2. Pick one of the elements in nature mentioned in the psalm that is significant to you. What does it teach you about God? How can it help you connect with Him?
3. Three reasons are given for why we should praise God. What are they? (look at verses 5, 13, and14)

**Watch:** Stars and Whales singing How Great is Our God (Chris Tomlin) - Louie Giglio – (8:50)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=helxFeG-0n0>

1. What does creation tell us about God?
2. Sometimes being in nature makes us feel small. Is this a bad thing? Is our view of God big enough?
3. How can spending time in nature draw us closer to God?
4. We should praise God for what He has done. We should also praise God for who He is. Name one of God’s attributes or characteristics that is meaningful to you right now.
5. What are some ways that you can make sure time outside is devotional and not just “a walk in the woods”?

**Application:**

This week, if possible, try to do one of these activities.

1. Drive to Stolley’s, Oneota Park, Gull Point State Park, or another “outdoorsy” place. Notice the details in nature. Think of how the area would change with the different seasons. Rejoice in our creative, powerful God.
2. Sing songs about God and nature. (Some options: “Behold Our God”, “All Creatures of Our God and King”, “How Great Thou Art”, “I Walk in the Garden Alone”, “Great is Thy Faithfulness”.)
3. Go for a prayer walk around your neighborhood, praying for each neighbor by name.
4. Read the Bible outside.
5. Worship God while watching a sunrise or sunset.
6. Memorize Psalm 19.
7. Read Psalm 38. Make a list of all the items in nature that show the immense power and grandeur of our Creator.

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