

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

Devotion | Week 3 Day 1

Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! – Psalm 150

Meet MaLeah

She is fearfully and wonderfully made!

MaLeah is a sixth-grade student at Emanuel Lutheran School in Hamburg, Minnesota. Among her many talents, one of the first things you will notice about MaLeah is her friendly personality and kind heart. This is evident in the way she greets everyone she passes by name with a friendly hello and a kind word. At home, she is the third of four children with an older sister who is active in gymnastics. MaLeah considered gymnastics but decided she wanted to pursue something different so she began dancing. She's only been at it for a couple of years but she has grown to love it and is becoming very good at it!

If you think about it, every person you meet has been created with a unique set of interests and abilities. Many are things that could be learned by most anyone, but sometimes we stumble across something that clicks. We find something at which we're gifted and it becomes an important part of our lives. But more often than not we find something that provides us with joy far beyond the talents we possess. Those hobbies and interests provide us with a break from our daily grind; a chance to do something we love for our own pleasure. But even in those moments we are reminded that even when we are doing things just for us, we're doing it for the Lord.

David's words in Psalm 150 serve as a wonderful reminder that in all things and in all ways we should give thanks and praise to the Lord. God the Father, our Creator. God the Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. God the Holy Spirit our Sanctifier. One God in three persons who has made us who we are, given us everything we need, and directed us through our lives until we are welcomed into God's presence for eternity in heaven.

Because we have been created, saved, and sustained by such a powerful and loving God, it is right that we would give Him thanks in all things. Paul spoke of this in his first letter to the Corinthians with a simple exhortation. "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. – 1 Corinthians 10:31" (ESV) So if you dance, dance to the glory of the Lord. If you sing, paint, fish, golf, hike, bike, garden, or read do so with a thankful heart and in a way that brings glory and honor to the God who made all things possible. It doesn't matter if you sing off key, if you can't hit a 3 iron, or if you fall asleep two pages into the book. God is not demanding a level of perfection He knows we cannot achieve. He is asking for our best and that it be given in sincere love and thankfulness.

Go slip on your dancing shoes and find the rhythm you like. God will take care of the rest.