

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Mar 24, 2019



Living In A Dry Land

Pastor Temple 8:15 & 9:30, Pastor Hall 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about personal events in the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday's meeting on Remembering the Long Way?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener Question: What do you do when you can't sleep? Is it usually because of a busy mind, a restless heart or because of something else?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Psalm 63:1-11. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. ²I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. ³Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. ⁴I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. ⁵I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. ⁶On my bed I remember you;

I think of you through the watches of the night. ⁷Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. ⁸I cling to you; your right hand upholds me. ⁹Those who want to kill me will be destroyed; they will go down to the depths of the earth. ¹⁰They will be given over to the sword and become food for jackals. ¹¹But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God will glory in him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- Psalm 63 was written by King David while fleeing in the wilderness from his son Absalom who had stolen the throne in a take-over. In the relational anguish of a Son trying to kill him, the emotional strain of the great loss of the role of king and the physical loss of royal abundance to the scarcity of the wilderness. Despite all these personal losses, on what does David initially choose to focus on in his mind and with his words? (verse 1)
- Pastor Michelle described the nature of the psalms in this quote by Dr. Ellsworth Kalas, “This remarkable book not only captures faith better than almost any other, it also encapsulates their despairs, their longings, their hopelessness and their hope.” How do Psalms like this one encourage us to be real and honest with God?
- How would you describe the kind of love or “hesed” that David describes in verse 3?
- Do you find it odd that David encourages singing praise in verses 3-5 in such a difficult time in his life?
- How did David deal with difficulty sleeping (vs 6-8)?
- Did the sting of loss lead David to plot revenge? Where then did David place his hope for deliverance (vs 9-11)?

Other Related Scriptures (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read out loud 1 Peter 1:3-9? How does the hope for deliverance that David sought come into sharper focus here (verses 3-5)?
- How is this a “living hope?”
- How does Peter view suffering in the life of a Christian and its result (verses 6-7)?
- What is Peter’s view of faith and its result (verse 8-9)?
- How may we keep this living hope ever before us in the wilderness experiences of life?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional scripture above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- Have you found your song to sing in times of trouble? What is it?
- No matter what you face this week or in the future, can you say now as David once did, “I will praise you as long as I live?” Why or why not?
- What would it look like this week for us to “earnestly seek Him?”
- What stressors in relational, professional or spiritual life is God calling you to give up and turn over to Him in prayer or through praise?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- In the Land Without Borders study, Dr. John A Beck lifts up the topic of faith witness while in the wilderness times of life and asks us this question, “Why does our testimony gain power and meaning when it is given during a more difficult season of wilderness?”
- Who do you know who has drawn others’ attention to the Lord in and through the difficult times of their own life?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.