

Joy in a Time of Grief

Small Group Bible Study

Psalm 63 New International Version (NIV)

A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.

¹ 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.

² I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.

³ Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.

⁴ I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.

⁵ I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

⁶ On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.

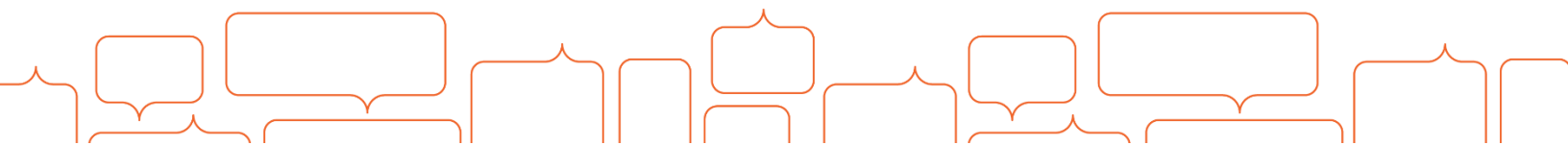
⁷ Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.

⁹ Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;
they will go down to the depths of the earth.

¹⁰ They will be given over to the sword
and become food for jackals.

¹¹ But the king will rejoice in God;
all who swear by God will glory in him,
while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

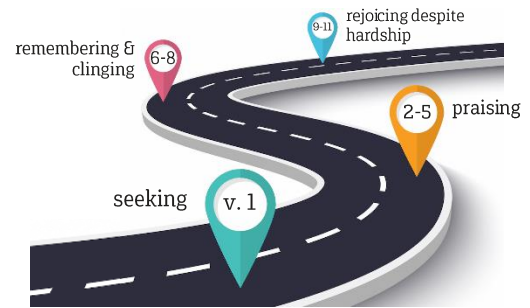


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Introduce

For the ancient people of God, the Psalms were songs of worship that captured their reality and guided them to turn their emotions and longings toward God. King David wrote Psalm 63 from a desert hiding place while fleeing from his son, Absalom, who wanted to kill him and become king. David's lyrics model how to center God while expressing raw emotions, regardless of the surrounding circumstances.



David's Journey Responding to God

Read Psalm 63

Discuss

1. **What does David observe and remember about God?**
King David faces the betrayal of his own son and finds himself running for his life in a physical and emotional desert. As he responds to the reality of that pain and grief, what does he observe and remember about God?
2. **How can you hold grief and joy together?**
Even in David's desperate flight through the scorching desert, his ultimate thirst was for God. What do David's actions reveal about how to hold grief and joy together in the midst of terrible circumstances?

Apply

1. **Name it and pray it.**
Name the desert places you and others around the world are presently in. Express your emotions to God about those places, and cling to God by observing and remembering him.
2. **Share joy.**
Like David, as you cling to God in the midst of your trouble, invite God to show you someone near you who may be experiencing a desert of grief. Connect with that person and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in sharing your own story of remembering God in the desert.

Conclude

Pray with each other.

For tips on leading a small group online, [watch this!](#)

