

STUDY NOTES

THROUGH THE DESERT

a Series At New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Soul Searching in the Desert" on 7/21/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 42 and 43 (*read as directed*)

THIRSTING FOR WATER

Read Psalm 42:1-4. The basic source of the psalmist's grief was a sense of separation from God. He felt dry, but we weren't made to be dry. We were made to be filled up—to be near God. Like a deer pants for water, the Psalmist is panting for God.

- *How would you describe a spiritually dry season?*

HAS GOD FORSAKEN?

Read Psalm 43:1-5. The language that the Psalmist uses is strong. He feels like God has abandoned him; but the key here is that God isn't the one saying this. God has not abandoned the Psalmist. God has not abandoned you.

- *Have you ever felt like God forsook you? If so, why did you like God had forsaken you?*

"MY GOD"

When the Psalmist addresses God, he does so with an extremely personal plea. He doesn't just say, "Oh God!" He says, "My God." Something in us needs to know God not just in theory, but personally.

- *What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God personally?*
- *What are some ways that you would like to know God more personally?*

"MY SOUL"

You know when you are searching deeply when you speak to your own soul. The health of our soul is the most important thing about us. When our soul is disconnected from God, it should shake us and rattles us. You know when you are searching deeply when you speak to your own soul. A neglected soul is much worse than a thirsty soul.

It is much better to know you are dehydrated than to be ignorant of it.

- *Our soul is the part of us that is hungry to be satisfied. In all honesty, what do you hunger or thirst for in your life?*
- *How do the things for which you hunger and thirst distract you from actually caring for your soul?*
- *How does thirsting for God bring to light your need for God?*
- *Pray with each other to experience the love of God in fresh ways this week.*