

STUDY NOTES

SUMMER 2019

at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "In the Desert" on 7/14/19 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 63:1-8

NO ONE IS IMMUNE TO SPIRITUAL DESERTS

A lot of people in Christianity feel the need to act like they have everything together. However, the bible paints a different picture with its characters. King David was very real with how he was feeling. In this passage, he starts out with saying how dry his relationship with God felt. He was in a literal and spiritual desert. A spiritual desert is a time in life when someone does not feel connected to God. If King David went through spiritual deserts, then none of us are immune.

Everyone goes through spiritual deserts.

- *What experience do you have with dry-spells spiritually?*
- *How honest are you with other people when you are struggling spiritually?*

HOW DO WE GET OUT?

Regardless of how we got into the spiritual desert, most of us want out. How did David respond in his desert? David tells us that he looked upon God in the sanctuary. However, he was nowhere near a sanctuary. He had been run out of the city by his own son who had conspired to take over the throne on which David sat. This means

that David is remembering times when he looked back on how God moved powerfully in his life.

When we are in the desert, we should look back on how God has moved in our lives.

- *Describe a time when God showed up for you even though you were struggling. Why would it be good to look back on that time in life?*

WHAT WE ACTUALLY DO

When we are thirsty in the desert, rather than remembering what God has done for us, we turn to other things to distract us from our thirst. We could do this in many different ways. We distract ourselves with big things or with little things. We turn to good things or bad things. It seems as if we turn everywhere except to God himself. Whatever it is, it isn't going to actually refresh us.

Our relationship with God will always feel dry as long as we make ourselves busy with other things that aren't him.

- *We all distract ourselves in different ways. How do you find that you distract yourself from sitting with God?*

Our souls were created to be satisfied perfectly, but they were created to be satisfied perfectly with only one thing—our relationship with God. Everything else to which we turn—even the good things—won't love us back perfectly.

Only God will love us perfectly.

- *How do other distractions ultimately let you down? Or why do we think that other things will fulfill us when we thirst for Jesus?*

BEING SATISFIED IN JESUS

David saw the love of God and he was satisfied. He didn't say that God took him out of the desert, but that God's steadfast love satisfied him while he was in the desert. We always can look upon the love of God and be satisfied. In some ways, this is a whole lot easier for us than it was for David. We get the luxury of looking back on God's love perfected for us in Jesus. We get to see how faithfully loving Jesus is through what he did for us.

Jesus proved his love for us so that our souls could be satisfied in him.

- *What are some ways that you can sit with God in order to experience God's love?*
- *Pray with each other to experience God's love in fresh ways this week.*