

This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

**CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)**

- On Sunday, Pastor Pat referred to John Donne (1572-1631), who said that the spirit and soul of the whole book of Psalms is contracted into Psalm 63, and the whole Psalm is contracted into verse 3. If you could boil the message of the whole Bible to just one or two phrases, what would they be?

**APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)**

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat taught us that, in spite of desperate circumstances, God can be your *personal* God.**

**God is Your God When You Have:**

- 1. Intimacy with Him in the midst of your circumstances (Psalm 63:1-4)**
  - Psalm 63 is a "sensory" Psalm. It's a prayer that you can *feel*. What are some other passages in the Bible that show us that worship is sensory - that our relationship with the Lord involves our whole self?
  - Some of us get a little uncomfortable when we talk about emotions in our worship, but Scripture teaches us that our emotions are important. Be honest - do you often "feel" intimate with God?
- 2. Satisfaction in Him in unsatisfying circumstances (Psalm 63:5-6)**
  - David was hiding in the Judean wilderness when he wrote this song. How do you think this environment influenced the words David wrote in verses 5-6 (and the rest of the Psalm)?
  - The ancient theologian, Augustine, said, "You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You." As a group, talk about the temporary things, people, or ideas that we often try to find our rest in, other than God. What do you think this week would look like if you found your rest in the Lord?
- 3. Reliance on Him in dangerous circumstances (Psalm 63:7-11)**
  - Look back at verse 7. Even if you don't love to sing out loud, what are some ways you can "sing for joy" each day? Do you have any favorite songs that remind you to rely on the Lord?
  - You might not feel like you are in life-threatening circumstances like David was, but talk with your group about some of the things that concern you right now (family, finances, future, etc.). As a group, read verse 8 out loud in several different Bible translations. What would it take for you to actively "cling" to God with everything you have right now?

**You Can Practice Better Love by:**

- 1. Seeking God early and meditating on Him late (vs. 1, 6)**
  - How do you plan to practice this principle this week?
- 2. Open up your lips and raise your hands (vs. 3-4)**
  - How do you plan to practice this principle this week?
- 3. Believing God's love is better than everything/everyone else (vs. 3 and Romans 8:28-29)**
  - How do you plan to practice this principle this week?

***Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?***

**PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)**

- Pray that God will draw you close to Him in a special way this week...and that you would really believe that His love is better than life itself!

