

Small Group Discussion + Leader Guide

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Preached By: Matt Alexander - Lead Pastor

“Satisfied in the Wilderness”

Summer in the Psalms Series #4

Psalms 63:1-11

Opening Prayer & Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Ice Breaker Question: Share about a time when you were physically very thirsty. What did that feel like, and what did you do about it?

Introduction (5 minutes)

This week, Pastor Matt taught from Psalm 63, where David writes from the wilderness of Judah—a harsh, dry, and dangerous place. Yet David's greatest concern wasn't physical thirst but spiritual thirst. He wanted God Himself, not just God's blessings.

Central Question: What can our souls find when we thirst for the Lord in a dry and weary land?

Key Takeaways

1. We Find Satisfaction in His Presence (vv. 1-5)
2. We Find Solace in His Presence (vv. 6-8)
3. We Find Security in His Presence (vv. 9-11)

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Satisfaction in His Presence (vv. 1-5)

Read Psalm 63:1-5 together

1. David describes his soul as "thirsting" and his flesh "fainting" for God. When have you experienced this kind of spiritual desperation? What circumstances brought you to that place?
2. Pastor Matt said, "Dry seasons do not create our spiritual appetite. They reveal it." What does this statement mean to you? What do your current struggles reveal about what you're truly thirsting for?
3. David begins thirsty (v. 1) but ends satisfied (v. 5). Why does God satisfy what the world can never fill? What "junk food" alternatives have you tried that left you still feeling empty?
4. Personal Reflection: On a scale of 1-10, how satisfied is your soul right now? What is contributing to that number?

Section 2: Solace in His Presence (vv. 6-8)

Read Psalm 63:6-8 together

5. David remembers and meditates on God during the night watches—when anxiety and fear often grow louder. What specific truths about God do you need to meditate on during your current "night watches"?
6. The sermon defined solace as "the deep comfort of God's presence when life doesn't make sense and the wilderness hasn't ended." How is this different from the world's idea of comfort?
7. Pastor Matt asked, "What dominates your thoughts? Fear? Worry? Anxiety? Or the faithfulness of God?" Be honest: what has been dominating your thought life lately?
8. Practical Application: What would it look like for you to intentionally "set your mind on things above" (Colossians 3:2) this week? Share one specific practice you could implement.

Section 3: Security in His Presence (vv. 9-11)

Read Psalm 63:9-11 together

9. David's circumstances hadn't changed—enemies and threats remained—yet he closes with confidence. Where does his security come from? How is this different from how we typically seek security?
10. The sermon included this quote: "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God" (Corrie ten Boom). What unknown future are you currently facing? What do you know about God's character that can anchor you?
11. Pastor Matt mentioned living in a "Will Explain Later" season. Are you in one of those seasons now? How does trusting God's character (rather than understanding His plans) change your perspective?
12. The airplane illustration showed how passengers trust the pilot without understanding how to fly. In what area of your life is God calling you to trust Him even though you don't understand the "instruments" or see the full picture?

Pointing to Jesus

Read John 7:37-38

13. How does Jesus ultimately fulfill the thirst David describes in Psalm 63?
14. Pastor Matt said, "Jesus entered the wilderness. Jesus thirsted. Jesus suffered. Jesus was forsaken on the cross. Why? So that thirsty sinners like us could be satisfied forever." How does the gospel transform our understanding of spiritual thirst and satisfaction?

Personal Application (15 minutes)

Reflection Questions:

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for personal reflection, then share as you're comfortable.

- What are you thirsting for today?
- Where are you looking for satisfaction outside of God?
- What are you depending on for peace?
- What are you trusting for security?
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This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Morning Meditation Each morning, read Psalm 63:1-5 and ask God, "What do I need to remember about You today?"

Option 2: Night Reflection Like David, use nighttime moments to remember God's faithfulness. Before bed, list 3 ways God has been your help (v. 7).

Option 3: Thought Replacement When worry or anxiety dominates your thoughts, intentionally replace those thoughts with a truth about God's character. Write down the worry and the truth side-by-side.

Option 4: Fasting from "Junk Food" Identify one thing you run to for satisfaction instead of God (entertainment, social media, food, etc.). Fast from it for one day and replace that time with prayer and Scripture reading.

Prayer Time (10-15 minutes)

Prayer Prompts:

Praise: Thank God that He alone satisfies, comforts, and secures us.

Confession: Confess the "wells" you've been drinking from instead of coming to Jesus.

Supplication:

- Pray for those in the group who are in "wilderness seasons"
- Ask God to increase your thirst for Him
- Pray for those facing unknown futures
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Closing: Pray John 7:37 over one another: "Jesus, we come to You thirsty. Satisfy our souls with living water."

For Next Week

- Read Psalm 84 in preparation for next week's study
- Follow through on your personal application challenge
- Check in with one group member mid-week to encourage them in their challenge

Additional Resources

Recommended Reading:

- The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer
- Trusting God by Jerry Bridges

Memory Verse for the Week: "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water." — Psalm 63:1