



**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
**08.07.22 Message | Keith Ehresman**

**Key Scriptures:**

*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. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.*

- Psalm 63

*And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the directions of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.*

- Ezra 3:10-13

*I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.*

- Psalm 145:1-6

**Message Highlights:**

- *Shabach* means to address in a loud tone, to shout, to commend, to glory or to declare triumph.
- When God is closer, things of the world seem smaller and often further away.
- Even in the dry places, the desert places, David resolved to live out his days by lifting a shout of praise to God.
- This shout of praise, this *shabach*, is to be expressed one generation to the next. When generations unite, we make extraordinary history; we are history in the making.

**Conversation Starter:**

Have you ever magnified a problem one day and then woke up the next day realizing how insignificant the situation really was? How did that situation play out? How can magnifying your praise to the Lord help you dwell on Him in the first place rather than allowing day-to-day problems to take your focus?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. Read Psalm 63; what is David focusing/dwelling on amidst life threatening circumstances?
  - a) What do you dwell on amidst challenging circumstances?
  - b) Which aspects of God's character and promises help you to focus your dwelling on God rather than your circumstances?
2. Can we say with sincerity that "His love is better than life" just as David conveys in Psalm 23?
  - a) This chapter shows us that David has seen the ultimate reality and purposes of God; point out some of the evidence of this in Psalm 23.
  - b) Do you struggle with projecting an image for your life that is "better" than God's love?
3. David's life is a testimony of God's power and glory; even though we may not physically see God, how can we give testimony of his works that create a desire for others to seek God.

**Pray:**

*God, today we declare triumphantly that you are the one true King, the Messiah! You have saved us from ourselves, and you deserve all of our praise. Lord, help bring to mind the new ways we have learned to praise you throughout the past several weeks. We pray that what we have learned would be transformational, not just information. There is no shortage of reasons to praise you; would you continue to give us the desire to know you more? It is in your son Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*