

# PSALMS: Week 6 – Wrestling with Religion

## Open in Prayer

## Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

## Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

## Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

Psalm 63 is a psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah. It was probably written when David was fleeing from his son Absalom. Absalom was plotting ways to not only topple David as King, but also take his life. The psalm emphasizes that if we trust in God, we are completely secure. This psalm describes the absolute peace that results from trusting completely in God alone and the resulting praise to God that peace produces.

## Tell the story – Psalm 63 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

## Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

## Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

## Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God is the only one who satisfies the longing of my heart; God is all-powerful; there is no match for God's glory; God alone is worthy of my praise; the Lord is our helper (Hebrews 13:6); God's lovingkindness is extravagant towards us; the joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10); God is my refuge in times of trouble; God is the ultimate Judge (James 4:12); God should be the very center of our lives; etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[Because nothing else completely satisfies, I hunger and thirst for an intimate relationship with God; I should respond to God's love for me with true worship and praise; I need to meditate on God's Word and His goodness; because Jesus has redeemed me, I should glorify Him with my life (1 Corinthians 6:20); I should desire more of God in my life; I am called to love others and not seek revenge (1 Peter 3:9); etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

## Other questions specific to this passage:

1. How deep and how strong is your commitment to praise God? Is it a greater challenge for you to worship God privately or publicly?
2. What does it look like to seek after God (verse 1)?

## Assign next week's passage – Psalm 91 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

## Close in Prayer

## PSALMS: Week 6 – Leadership Coaching

*The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.*

### **Leading** *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

Remember to involve everyone in your Grow Group in the discipleship process. Continually vocalize and cast vision that everyone has a part. Everyone can participate! Everyone can contact those who are absent! Everyone can have coffee with someone and encourage them in their faith!

### **Shepherding** *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

Boot Camp and Boot Camp 2.0 will be offered again on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Begin now challenging those in your Grow Group who have not yet been through this training to mark their calendars and make it a priority to attend. We hope that you have specifically identified people in your group that would be prepared to help when the need for a branch occurs. We also want you to encourage those to attend who still need help understanding the vision and discipleship process.

### **Developing** *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

Conflict is a natural part of relationships. Most disagreements appear to be a simple difference of opinion, but James teaches us that the root of our conflict is much deeper. The sin that resides in us tempts us to always seek control and personal gain. We want to prove that the way that benefits us the most is the right way so that we do not need to submit ourselves to the other person. Many of our arguments at their core represent failure to submit.

James links our relational struggles with our submission to God. As we mature in our relationship with God, we understand more about how our pride and selfish desires affect our relationships with others. In this relationship, we learn to let go of those motives and fulfill what James called the “royal law” by seeking to love one another as ourselves. Drawing near to God enables us to draw near to others in the most authentic way.

Read through James 4 and reflect upon the following:

- ☐ What is one current relationship that is prone to fights and disagreements?
- ☐ How could choosing humility over asserting your way improve this relationship?