

INTRO

- What is something you really long to do?

The Lenten season is a time of personal housecleaning of our interior world marked by reflection, repentance and returning to God with all our heart. This series aims to embrace that.

READ

Psalm 63

REFLECT & RESPOND

Much like the tone of Lent, this psalm takes place in a wilderness. Scripture is filled with literal wilderness experiences, and it metaphorically speaks of uncomfortable, testing times. However, the wilderness seems to be God's favoured place to do his deepest work in us.

Qu: what is it about the wilderness that lends itself to God doing his deepest work in us?

David's tough situation reveals his deep longing for God and it's captured by two seemingly opposite images: the desert and a banquet.

DESERT: SEEKING GOD

My whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. (V1)

The desert is a challenging and desperate place which puts us in touch with our most primal needs & desires. It can also be a gift of clarity and honesty revealing our true priorities and longings. David's desperate situation drives him to seek and call out to God. In this sense, longing for God begins as a lament over the way things are, which drives us to seek God for the way things ought to be (in our lives, families, church, city, nation etc).

Qu: What is one thing that grieves/frustrates you at the way things are? In light of God's kingdom,

how should it be different? How can you take action on this?

BANQUET: FEASTING ON GOD

Longing for God begins by seeking God with a renewed sense of desperation and hunger, which is often provoked by "desert" times in our lives. But that's only half the picture. The key is finding full satisfaction in what we seek:

Because your love is better than life...

I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods.
(v3,5)

God is not out to kill our desires but to help us find their satisfaction fully in him. Jesus is the embodiment of God's love, and we are invited to seek him and be fully satisfied in him:

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." — Jesus, John 6:35

Qu: David (and Jesus) challenge us to examine our own lives and longing: "your love is better than ____." Do you believe Jesus is enough for your deep hunger and thirst? Why or why not?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for increased hunger and longing for God in our lives. "To long for the longing is also from God"
- Pray for longing to see God move across our campuses and city, and to be open to being an answer to that prayer.