

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

August 6th

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. What would you do for a Klondike Bar?

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 63
 - What do you notice in David's prayer?
 - What in this prayer connects with your experience and what seems foreign?
2. Why is desire so important? How does what our heart desires impact our choices?
3. Pastor Michael said that sin causes us to glorify ourselves and to desire things apart from God. What do you think are some of the chief things that people desire as a replacement for God?
4. How does someone develop a deep desiring for God? What settings or actions contribute to growing that desire?
5. David prayed with expectancy. Read what Jesus taught about prayer in Luke 11:1-13:
 - What does this teaching say about the way that we should approach God?
 - Does your prayer life look like this? Why or why not?
 - If we approach God with expectancy, how do respond then when God says "no?"
6. What all has God done to express a desire for us? How does that knowledge impact the way that you interact with him?

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Psalm 63: The Longing Psalm

Klondike bars have sold their product with the famous line, “what would you do for a Klondike bar.” People will go to great lengths in pursuit of money or experiences. But how far would we go to have a fresh experience with God? There is a theme in the Psalms about desiring God. These prayers both increase our own desire for God and to give voice to the desire that we have.

- I. David demonstrates a desperate craving for God:** David is in a setting in which his son is attempting to take over the kingdom and David has been forced to flee into the desert. In the midst of the danger and betrayal, David’s prayer is for the presence of God (v.1).
 - a. His desire is shaped by a vision of God’s majesty:** In verse 2 David reflects on times that he has seen God’s glory in the tabernacle. He has positioned himself in places to encounter God and it has shaped his vision. He even goes on in verse 3 to say that he would rather experience the presence of God than life itself.
 - b. God’s presence is available to those who seek him:** God created us to desire him. As Blaise Pascal once said, we each have a God sized void in our lives that only God can fill. Sin has warped those desires though to where we naturally seek to glorify ourselves above all else. We look to all kinds of short term fills to replace God. However, even though we reject him, God still makes his presence available. Sometimes he is silent, but his presence is still there.
- II. We are invited to pursue God with a holy expectancy:** In the 2nd half of the prayer, David has confidence that God will show up. In verse 5, David says that he will be satisfied. In verse 8, God is upholding him. In 9-11, he is confident that God will deliver him from his enemies. David prays with an expectancy that God will answer. Jesus reinforces this teaching in Luke 11:8-11. We don’t dictate God, but we approach him as his children expecting us to answer.

Conclusion

David teaches us to desire God. The good news though is that desire is not a one way street. God desires us. He doesn’t need us, but he wants us. He demonstrates us by coming into the world as Jesus and dying so that we could be restored to him. He took the first steps, and then asks us to desire him also.