

Introduction: This resource guide is designed for personal use and reflection as well as a tool to be used at the home sessions of our small group ministry. Use it as it best fits your personal pursuit and small group's pursuit of Intimacy with God!

Psalm 63:1-5 (Our memory verses for October) A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.

¹ O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ² I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. ³ Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. ⁴ I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. ⁵ My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

In Psalm 63 David writes that God “alone” is his God (v. 1) and he tells God that he really is thirsty and longing for him. Intimacy with God is ours to experience to be sure but there are two conditions that need to be met if this is going to happen: First we need to want it. Second it will be on God's terms.

Being thirsty and longing for God

How does David express his desire for God in Psalm 63?

In Psalm 143?

Coming to terms with “God's terms” for our experiencing true intimacy with him

Read through Psalm 143 and list the “terms” David identifies for his experiencing God's closeness.

(EXTRA – In Psalm 40 identify both David's expressions of hunger for God and conditions he lists for experiencing intimacy with God)

Taking action...

Remember - "Knowledge apart from application falls short of God's desire for His children. He wants us to apply what we learn so that we will change and grow." (Gary Matlock, in his Introduction to "Intimacy with the Almighty" study guide).

The following are from our reading in "Intimacy with the Almighty" book.

Simplicity - Read the last paragraph on the bottom of page 28. Has busyness or distractions caused your heart to become cool toward Christ? If so what can you change today, right now?

Silence - Read the last paragraph on the bottom of page 36 and the top of page 38. Do you build intentional silence into your day? If yes, how? If no, how can you start?

(EXTRA - See also bottom of 41-42). Who is responsible for your discipleship and intimacy with God? What needs to change?

Solitude – Read page 60. What can cause us to fake spirituality? Have you? What can you do to change that starting now?

(EXTRA - Read pages 63-64). Do you journal? Why or why not? If not what might it take to get started today?

A warning in all this – remember it is who we pursue by faith not how we go about it that is crucial! What does Jesus say in Matthew 5:6?

The following questions are from the study guide by the same title. If you are using the guide, it is recommended that you simply go to it and work through chapters 2 & 3 - "Simplicity – Ordering our Lives" & "Silence & Solitude – Essentials for Intimacy".

How often do you say no to even good opportunities so that you can keep your life simple – focused on Christ and the few things that he says matter?

How are you building silence and solitude into the fabric of your day or week? What is God saying to you in these times?