

4-16-23 Facilitator – Desperate for God’s Presence Psalm 42, Tim Rice

1. **Launchers: When have you experienced profound separation?**

2. **Worship God: Read Isaiah 43:1-4.**

Worship the LORD for His goodness and His greatness “by day or by night” no matter what our circumstances. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that He is good and provides everything good you’ve ever had.

3. **Sermon Reflection: Desperate for God’s Presence, Psalm 42**

GOOD TIMES PAST

- What good thing seems long gone or far away to you?
- Is God’s greatness or goodness one of those things?
- List the good things from your past that God has done for you. Count your many blessings.

A LONG WAY FROM HOME

- Where are you most vulnerable to giving into unbelief?
- Who is influencing you (or taunting you) and you don’t have a ready reply?
- Have you hit the point yet *where nothing else will do?* (Keller)
 - Tim Keller: “Often you don’t know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have.”

HOPE & A FUTURE RESOLVE

- What keeps you from being “soul concerned” or “soul aware”? – Why are you cast down oh my soul?
- What circumstances are over-riding your beliefs?
- How can setting your trust in Jesus set the emotional tone of your life and being?
- Preach the Gospel to yourself. Practice with each other. Practice for each other.
- How does the Gospel become the central organizing passion of your life and being?

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**

1. Worship the LORD for His goodness and His greatness “by day or by night” no matter what our circumstances. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that He is good and provides everything good you’ve ever had.
2. How have you lived as if God is far away from you, and you blame Him? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to fill your heart’s emptiness with His overflowing love and power.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His constancy. Thank Him that day or night, in joyful times or in sorrow, that His work on the Cross is complete and that His Spirit’s Presence cannot be lost.
4. Who do you know that is overwhelmed by their hardships and unbelief? Pray for them, asking the Lord to meet them at their worst, and to convey to them His steadfast love as their salvation and their God.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love, joy, and peace. Pray that He would work into you His steadfastness more and more so that you remain faithful in hardships rather than being overcome by them.

5. **Mission: Christians are on mission to love those in hardships and struggling with unbelief.**

Who do you know that is overwhelmed by their hardships and unbelief?

- Make a list of your friends and enemies struggling through hardships and unbelief.
- Believe for them before they believe that God is their hope and salvation.
- Pray and ask God to give you ways to bless them. Love them. Serve them. Hope with them.
- Ask for specifics from Holy Spirit and wait for Him to answer.
- Wait, speak, and serve by faith watching for Holy Spirit to bless and encourage.