



Lab Study Guide Winter 2018

Date: 2/25/18
Text: Psalm 63

Teacher: Stacie Post
Any other Text?:

1. **Read the Text Together** Read the Text for this week out loud with your group.

2. **Make Observations** What stands out? What phrases caught your attention?
Any repetition, contrasts, comparisons?

3. **Ask Questions** What is confusing or hard to understand? Any details that might be important?
Ask: who, what, where, when, why, how?

4. Background Information

Context: David is in the Judean Wilderness - a very hot, very dry, and very rugged place!

- rectangular strip, 60 miles long and 10 miles wide between crest of Judean hills and rift valley
- More than half the JW receives less than 8 inches, very dry!
- Lack of rain and terrain make agriculture impossible here
- Jesus spent 40 days here when he was tempted by Satan
- David hid in this same desert before he was king when Saul was trying to kill him
- David finds himself back in the desert, running/hiding again
- Back in the place that's still hot, dry, rugged, and lonely - Just like life for us sometimes....

Why is David there? Story is found in II Sam 13-19

- David's son Amnon rapes Absalom's sister Tamar
- Two years later, Absalom kills Amnon, then flees to a place called Geshur
- Three years later, David's servant Joab brings him back to Jerusalem
- Two years go by without seeing David
- Absalom spends the next 4 years undermining David's leadership, collecting horses and chariots and men to follow him, Text tells us he stole the hearts of the men of Israel
- Goes to Hebron to secretly be declared king, stealing the throne from David
- David hears word of this, fears for his life, flees to the Judean desert to hide from Absalom

In the midst of all the chaos of his life, the hiding, the fear, the loss, the hurt, the worry, he betrayal... David did not just wallow in the corner, complaining about all the things that were happening to him. Instead, in this instance, David chose to declare things about God that he knew to be true, so he could stand.

5. Application Questions

1) What kind of chaos are you facing right now? What are the circumstances in your life that make you aware of your need for a firm place to stand?

2) As you read Psalm 63 together, name out loud together the truths about God that David declares in the midst of his fear, loss, worry, confusion, and disappointment.

3) Can you name some truths about God that you know you need to remember when life gets hard?

4) Spend some time (10 min?) reading scripture to each other, verses that have encouraged you in the past, or promises of God that you can stand on when you are in the chaos. In this way, declare the truth you know about God to each other.

6. Have everyone answer....

What verse or phrase from this Psalm was most powerful for you this week?

