**1. Motivate**

How can an optical illusion, such as 3d chalk art, been hard for you to see?

* poor lighting or glare from the surface
* uneven surfaces, surface texture
* the wrong viewing angle
* too close or too far away
* near- or far-sighted, astigmatism, poor depth perception
* complexity of the drawing
* low contrast or faded colors

**2. Transition**

Consider your perspective when it comes to worship.

* It depends on what … and more importantly … WHO you see.
* We find all we need when we come to God in worship.

A video introduction to the Bible study is available. To view it go to <https://tinyurl.com/ye56a7uu> If you don’t have wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/3s9cpsj7>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Worship is Satisfying

Listen for a satisfaction comparison.

Psalm 63:1-5 (NIV) 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.

David says, “Oh God, you are my God.” What do you think the phrase “you are my God” implies? Do you think the emphasis is on “you” or “my”?

* there were lots of deities in the surrounding cultures
* David was saying that of all his choices, Jehovah was The One
* the others weren’t worth knowing
* implies that the relationship is personal … doesn’t say “our”

What was he eagerly and earnestly desiring to do, and why was it important for him?

* his soul thirsted for Jehovah God
* his body longed for God
* he remembers “seeing” God in the sanctuary
* God was/is powerful, full of glory

Upon what did he reflect that encouraged him to seek the Lord during his current predicament?

* he had been a dry and weary land
* there was no water
* he contrasted that experience with “seeing” God

What commitment did he make?

* praise God as long as he lived
* lift up hands (in surrender, submission) in God’s name
* satisfy himself with knowing and experiencing God
* praise God with music – singing

David writes that he "earnestly seeks" God. What are some practical ways you can earnestly seek God? How is this different from a casual approach to faith?

* reading the Scriptures
* think about what you read

Check these out and possibly print copies for the class.

* write down your thoughts, your insights
* study God’s attributes
* review often the “[101 Reasons to Praise the Lord](https://biblestudiesbysteve.com/SundaySchool/FamilyActivities/The%20Benefits%20of%20Worship/101%20Reasons%20to%20Praise%20the%20Lord.pdf)” or “[Who We Are in Christ](https://biblestudiesbysteve.com/SundaySchool/FamilyActivities/The%20Benefits%20of%20Worship/who_we_are_in_christ_1.pdf)”
* casual faith would be just going to church to be with friends, hear good music, and feel good about the weekly experience – feel like you checked off the “religion box” in your life for the week

When has God brought you out of a dry and desolate place?

* times of illness, injury
* facing financial problems
* dealing with relationships
* times of discouragement

David mentions experiencing God's power and glory in the sanctuary. How does corporate worship differ from private devotion in your experience? What unique value does each provide?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Private Devotion | Corporate Worship |
| * in a quiet, private place * not necessarily a planned sequence * open ended, not timed * can be a different experience from one time to the next * makes your worship more personal | * with lots of other people * usually a scripted sequences - singing, praying, reading a scripture, preaching * may be loud, joyous music * often calls for specific response to the challenge of the preaching/teaching * you are uplifted by realizing you are not alone in your faith - The Body of Believers joins together to minister to one another |

3.2 Worship is Reassuring

Listen for a reason to sing.

Psalm 63:6-8 (NIV) On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. 7 Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. 8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

In what situations might you find yourself praying in the middle of the night wondering what God will do?

* lying awake in bed at night worrying
* maybe if you must be up in the night to care for a child
* you have to be up late at night to finish a project or work as a watchman
* experiencing a flight delay late into the night
* whenever you are alone with your thoughts

What words and phrases describe the assurance that came over him during the time of personal worship?

* “you are my help”
* he was able to sing “in the shadow of your wings” – he felt safe enough to sing happily even with danger around
* he would “cling to” God
* he felt God’s strong right hand was holding him up

David describes meditating on God during the night watches. What role does quiet reflection play in one’s spiritual life?

* what you fill your mind with affects how you think and act
* when you meditate on the attributes of God, on his promises … you are not rendered helpless when bad times come
* thinking about God’s principles of living helps you make good decisions
* you realize you can trust God
* you become more and more convinced that God is in control and whatever comes along in life, He will take care of it

The image of being "in the shadow of your wings" appears in verse 7. What does this metaphor tell us about our relationship with God? How have you experienced God's protection?

* just barely missed being in a bad accident
* God’s financial provision came just in time
* God helped you figure out that hard problem on the exam
* “circumstances” prevented from taking a job that would have turned out badly and a door opened to a much better situation
* others around you suffered a lay-off at work, but God preserved your job

3.3 Worship Instills Confidence

Listen for a contrast in types of people.

Psalm 63:9-11 (NIV) They who seek my life will be destroyed; they will go down to the depths of the earth. 10 They will be given over to the sword and become food for jackals. 11 But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God's name will praise him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

What is the contrasted fate of those who stand as enemies of God and those who are faithful to Him?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Enemies of God | Those Faithful to God |
| * destroyed * down to the depths of the earth * given over to sword * become food for jackals * liars will be silenced | * rejoice in God * praise God * protected from God’s enemies |

David expresses confidence that his enemies will be defeated while he will rejoice. How do we balance praying for justice with Jesus' command to love our enemies?

* remember that it is God’s justice, not personal revenge
* we pray for their transformation, seeking their repentance, healing, reconciliation with God
* pray for justice, but pray for God’s mercy to be evident
* before praying for justice, examine your own motives – are they driven by love or personal bitterness
* remember that God is in control – He will bring ultimate justice in His time, in His way

The psalm ends with a focus on truth-telling and silencing lies. Why do you think truthfulness is connected to worship and relationship with God?

* worshiping God means approaching Him with honesty, acknowledging His Truth
* we need to bring honesty about our thoughts, struggles, and praise to our worship
* truthfulness fosters unity – with God, with others
* lies are an obstacle to the Kingdom/Rule of God in our lives
* God’s Truth liberates us from the guilt, shame, and judgment of deception
* truthfulness aligns our lives with His character,
* we will allow His Truth to transform every part of our lives

The final verses show both judgment and rejoicing. How does this passage help us understand God's character as both just and merciful?

* we see God’s character as both inspiring fear/awe and comfort
* justice ensures that evil doesn’t have the final word,
* mercy invites us into a relationship of joy and hope
* We can see God as both holy (unique) , compassionate and loving
* He is worthy of both our trust and worship

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

A qr code with a couple of kids

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The Starting Place.

* Write your own “psalm” based on the outline of Psalm 63.
* Begin with a statement about who God is to you and how much you need Him in your life.
* Continue with a list of ways you want to praise Him.
* Add a testimony of what God is doing in your life. Make your own statement of commitment to follow Him.
* Finish it by declaring confidently how you expect God to move in your circumstances.

The Growing Place.

* Start a “psalm” prayer journal.
* As you read through the psalms, look for ones whose structure would lend themselves to first-person application.

The Sowing Place.

* Share your observations about Psalm 63 with a friend or family member.
* Give this person the context of what it means in your life right now.

Double Puzzle Clue words based on Psalm 63 (NIV)

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The consulate of Puqazam has delivered to us this two part message. A Christian believer took great risk to have them smuggled in to our people. The groups of scrambled letters on the right are words from our Bible passage. Once they are in order, you have the numbers from the message where those letters go. When you decrypt the message forward it to your worship pastor. Tech help and other fun Family Activities found at <https://tinyurl.com/3s9cpsj7>

A yellow paper with black letters

Description automatically generatedA person looking through binoculars

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