

November 29th, Connection
Part 1 in the series, 'Essential Services'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Can you remember the definition of 'amuse' from the message?

A: Amuse = not ponder: not reflecting or contemplating serious matters or pursuits

In what ways can amusement hinder reflection or contemplation in our lives?

What are some things we might find our soul hungering for?

Examples:

Rest

Strength and Courage

Love and affection

Connection

Can you think of some ways one might try and fulfill those longings apart from God?

In 'The Weight of Glory', C.S. Lewis said "Now, if we are made for heaven, the desire for our proper place will be already in us, but not yet attached to the true object, and will even appear as the rival of that object." He makes the point that all of our deepest longings are us ultimately longings for heaven. They are longings that the objects or activities themselves can never truly satisfy. What do you think about this?

READ Psalm 63:1-3

You, God, are my God,

earnestly I seek you;

I thirst for you,

my whole being longs for you,

in a dry and parched land

where there is no water.

I have seen you in the sanctuary

and beheld your power and your glory.

Because your love is better than life,

my lips will glorify you.

Explain the wheel analogy from the message.

Have you ever been really thirsty, but you didn't have any water? Maybe on a hike for example? Describe how it felt both mentally and physically.

Why do you think David uses the metaphor of thirsting for God in a dry land?

What is David's reaction to his own 'musings' on life?

He tells God, he talks to Him, cries out to Him...

READ John 15:4-5

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **5** "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

What does 'abide in Me' mean?

A: Stay continually connected in Me/Live in me.

How does knowing that *Jesus abides* in those who believe affect your perspective on what it means to abide in Him?

What would you say is the difference is between bearing fruit and producing fruit?

What do you think of Jesus' statement 'without Me you can do nothing', as it relates to the fruit we bear?