

Abide: Hungry & Thirsty

Various Scriptures

Psalm 42, Psalm 84, John 15:4



Reconnecting

- Describe a time in your life where you have been physically hungry or thirsty? Where were you? What was running through your head?

Create a Sacred Space

Read this portion of The Prayer of Saint Patrick and then reflect on what it means to you:

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me, Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me. Amen

Navigating Discussion

As we dive into this topic our goal remains the same: to be a people apprenticed to the life of Jesus. His life and teaching are our example and our source of truth, and the Scriptures are our trustworthy guide. Let's renew our commitment to foster safety and freedom as we seek to understand and apply what we study:

- Whenever possible, please listen to the sermon prior to gathering (Sunday or online).
- While we are meeting, commit to focussing rather than multitasking. Be all here.
- Accept the invitation to be a learner, open to a perspective you haven't considered before.
- Be patient and give everyone an opportunity to share, even if it takes time to form or finish a thought.
- Be respectful and non-judgmental. Diverse perspectives are part of a robust learning community.

Listening to God's Word

In this series, we'll dig deep into the trenches of our soul as we examine our relationship with God, taking seven weeks to learn about being a people apprenticed to Jesus in worship. This week, we are considering the role that the hungers and thirsts of our lives help us pay attention to our relationship with God, and our inclination to worship God. Is this an area that we have grown complacent in? Are we ready to hear God's invitation to deepen our heart of worship and how we express it? How, in our busy and distracted lives, can we learn to praise our Creator with the worship he is due?

Small Group Discussion

- What was helpful, surprising, or challenging about the sermon you heard on Sunday?
- What does "worship" mean to you?

Read Psalm 42.

- How do you relate to the words of this psalm in your own relationship with God?
- Think back to a time in which you experienced a hunger or thirst for God. What were you experiencing that stirred those desires?

- St. Augustine of Hippo once said, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” What are some ways you try to fulfill your hungers and thirsts that do not lead you to the rest we seek?
- Why do you think we choose lesser things to fulfill our hungers and thirsts, rather than God?

Read Psalm 84.

- How do you relate to the words of this psalm in your own relationship with God?
- What do you think the psalmist experienced in the temple that stirred a longing in him to return to that space? What did he observe “in the tents of wickedness” that also stirred that longing?
- How would you describe your own current level of hunger, thirst, longing, yearning for an encounter with God in worship?
- The New Testament moves our attention from the temple as a physical building to Jesus himself as the Temple (John 2:19-21), your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), and the church as “a holy temple in the Lord” (Ephesians 2:21). What are the implications of these insights for how and where we can worship?

Read John 15:4

- What does it mean to you to abide in Christ, and for Christ to abide in you?
- What are practical ways you have learned to respond to a longing for God with worship in the daily rhythms of your life?
- What is one way you’d like to integrate more of a practice of worship into an area of your life (e.g. home, work, school, alone, with friends, family, church)?
- What fruit do you believe Jesus might bring about in your life through a deepening connection to him in worship?

Practice: Reflection and Prayer

Here are three ways you could respond to this invitation to fulfill your hunger and thirst in God:

- Take stock of your current hunger for God. If your heart feels complacent, distant, or uncertain, ask God for the grace to desire him more in proportion to his own greatness and goodness.
- Spend some time worshipping together as a Life Group, and/or sometime this week on your own or with your family. On YouTube or a streaming platform, you can find great recordings for a lot of songs that express a hunger for God, e.g. “Hungry” or “All Who Are Thirsty” (Vineyard Music), “Abide” (Aaron Williams), or a hymn like “Be Thou My Vision.” Posture your heart, mind, and body and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you sing or listen to the lyrics.
- Commit to attending some of our weekly Abide worship gatherings, Wednesdays at 7 pm during this series.

Caring for One Another

- *Take some time to pray for the other life groups that are meeting this week.*
- *Do you or your family have a need that the Life Group can help meet?*