

## **Summer in the Psalms – Week one -Small group guide**

### Small Group Guide: Longing for God's Presence (Psalm 84)

Opening Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help everyone apply the truths from Psalm 84 to their lives.

#### Key Takeaways:

1. Psalm 84 expresses a deep yearning for God's dwelling place and presence.
2. The psalmist sees the journey to God's presence as worth all difficulties.
3. For Christians today, God's dwelling place is within us through the Holy Spirit.
4. We are called to cherish communal worship and find joy in God's presence.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentioned the Hebrew word "yedidot" (lovely) in verse 1. How would you describe your emotional attachment to places of worship or times of communion with God?
2. Reflect on the idea of the church as a "spiritual house" (Ephesians 2:20-22). How can we contribute to creating an environment where God's presence is manifest in our community?
3. The psalmist describes an intense longing for God's courts. In our modern context, how can we cultivate a similar thirst for God's presence?
4. Discuss the challenges of prioritizing spiritual intimacy in our distracted, materialistic world. What are some practical ways to overcome these obstacles?

5. The sermon highlighted how pilgrims would travel great distances to experience God's presence. How does this compare to our often easy access to worship today? Has convenience affected our appreciation for God's presence?

6. Reflect on the concept of "blessedness" (Ashrei) as described in the sermon. How do you experience this state of joy and well-being derived from God's favor in your life?

#### Practical Applications:

1. This week, set aside time each day to intentionally seek God's presence. Journal about your experiences and share with the group next time.

2. Identify one way you can contribute to making our church community a place where others can experience God's presence. Commit to implementing this idea.

3. Reflect on areas in your life where you may be taking God's presence for granted. Develop a plan to cultivate a greater appreciation for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

4. Choose a verse from Psalm 84 to memorize and meditate on throughout the week. Share how this impacts your daily walk with God.

Closing Prayer: Thank God for His constant presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit. Ask for His help in cultivating a deeper longing for Him and living as "living stones" in His spiritual house.