



Week 4: The Dry Season

Psalm 42

A. The Human Condition

1. We all experience the dry seasons.

2. We try to survive.

⁹I say to God my Rock, “Why have You forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy? ¹⁰My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, ‘Where is your God?’” Psalm 42:9-10 (NIV)

- Biological Response
- Emotional Response
- Spiritual Response

3. This is normal.

¹¹Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.” Psalm 42:11

B. There is Purpose in the Pain

1. God knows your pain.

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalms 34:18 (NIV)

2. God will use your pain.

³Praise be to God, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” 1 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

3. God is the solution to the pain.

⁶My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.⁷ Deep calls to deep in the roar of Your waterfalls; all Your waves and breakers have swept over me.” Psalm 42:6-7 (NIV)

C. Only Water Satisfies

⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.” Isaiah 64:4 (NIV)

1. Don’t drink oil.

2. Jesus is the Water.

¹³Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:13-14 (NIV)

D. Irrigate During the Dry Season

“²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:22 (NIV)

1. Give up.

2. Personal disciplines

a. Pray honestly.

“By day the Lord directs His love, at night His song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.” Psalm 42:8

b. Read fervently.

c. Listen intently.

Pay attention to what your own body is telling you

Pay attention to what God is speaking to you

Pay attention to what other Christians are speaking into your life

3. We Connect with God Through People.

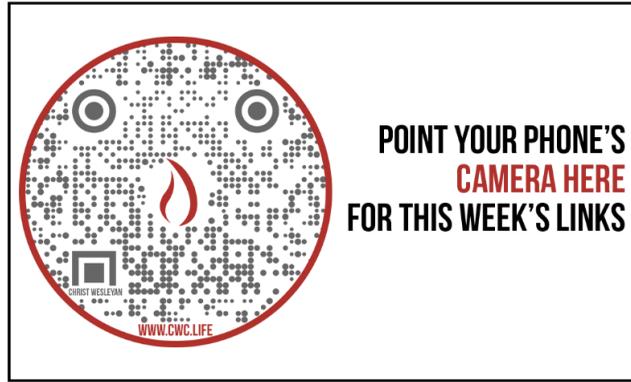
²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.” Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

- Be with People
- Sunday Worship
- Spiritual Retreats
- Small Groups
- Stephen Ministers
- Coworkers
- Close Friends
- Spouse/Children

Bottom Line: You must be reliant during the dry season.

To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: IChooseJesus to 570-273-0088

Next Sunday: Pastor Branden
Anthem: A Psalm for Every Season
Week 5: A Psalm for the Apathetic Season.



Giving and Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 91.1%

Giving year to date: 98.9%

Last Sunday weekend attendance: 1,791

Salvations to date: 16 | Baptisms to date: 7

Upcoming Happenings:

July 9 Valley Fest

July 10 Outdoor Service/Baptisms

July 25-29 CWC Youth Camp

Get all the info & register: cwc.life/events

A Paraphrase of Psalm 42

When an animal is suffering from thirst, what can stop them from finding water? The water becomes their soul focus, their singular drive is to find water and satisfy their thirst. To survive.

There are times when I feel like my soul is being torn apart and I know I need God! I can sense my soul thirsting for Him as though I'm close to death. But I just cannot find a way to feel Him near me.

It feels like the whole world is crushing down on me, I'm overwhelmed by emotion and the thoughts that are rolling through my mind... Where is God in all this?

I can remember not feeling this way, I can remember when I was in a good place... I can remember coming to church and feeling so impacted by the worship as if every word in the songs was a true expression of my life.

So why God, why am I so discouraged, why am I defeated, I feel broken. And I know I shouldn't feel this way. I know what you've done for me. I know I need to praise you but I just can't. And my failure to draw close to you just makes me hate myself even more.

God there's a battle raging inside of me that's as violent as the storm surrounding my life.

But I know, I KNOW, that you are pouring out your love on me. That you look on my brokenness right now and you have compassion.

So why does it feel like I'm forgotten? Why does it feel like everything in life is against me. I hear the voice of the enemy screaming in my mind that I'm alone.

I know this isn't true so why do I let myself stay in this place?

God help me! You've saved me in the past and I know you are the same savior today, God be my strength. Satisfy my thirst. Show me the way through this.