

Flourishing in the Dry Season

When You Are Spiritually Dry

We all know what is like to be physically thirsty. All we can think of is something cool to drink to quench our thirst. We have times when we are “thirsty” spiritually as well. We have seasons where our walk with the Lord just seems dry, lifeless, and we need something to satisfy our spiritually longing.

David was hiding out in a physical desert, that was hot, dusty and very dry, when he pens the words to Psalm 63. By his words, we can tell he was spiritually in a dry place as well: ***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.*** (Psalm 63:1)

In this psalm, there are three things we can do to help us to flourish in the D.R.Y. Season:

D—Declare God's Praises. David is going to fill his mind, and his lips with words of praise. ***Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you*** (Psalm 63:3-5).

R—Recall What God Has Done in the Past. In addition to praising God for who He is—His character—during spiritually dry times, recall and remind yourself of what God has done for you in the past. In verse 2, David remembers how he had seen God in the sanctuary and beheld God's power and glory. Then in verse 6-8 he writes, ***“On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.”*** David remembers how God has worked in his life in the past, he recalls all that God had done for him before, and that gives him something to cling to during the current dry season of his life.

Y—Yearn for God Alone. To yearn mean “to desire strongly or persistently, to ache, to have a desire for something or someone who is not present.” In verse 1, David clearly says he is seeking, thirsting for and yearning for God to satisfy his spiritual thirst. When I am really thirsty, although I enjoy other drinks (Coke Zero is one of my favorites) I know that only water is truly going to satisfy my thirst. When we are spiritually dry, we have to choose to yearn for God and God alone. Spend time in His Word, spend time in prayer. Other things may fill the time (hobbies, work, streaming endless shows) but they will not truly satisfy the thirst in our souls.

The good news is that just like any other season, no season is forever. You will not be spiritually dry forever.



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Flourishing in Relationships: Conversation Starters

Gather some friends for coffee, or enjoy the nice summer weather. Use these questions to help get the conversation started.

- ◆ What do you like to do to escape the heat of summer?
- ◆ Tell of a time when you were your thirstiest and how you satisfied that thirst?
- ◆ What is your favorite Bible story that involves water?
- ◆ When you are thirsty, what is your favorite drink to satisfy your thirst?
- ◆ What is your go-to drink order at your favorite coffee shop? Is there a new drink on the menu that you would like to try?
- ◆ Ever been in a physical desert? Describe your experience.
- ◆ Have you ever experienced a spiritual desert? What was that like? How did you get through it?
- ◆ When you feel dry spiritually, what do you do to refresh your walk with the Lord, to satisfy your thirst?
- ◆ What Bible verse is like a glass of cold water to your thirsty soul?

“It is precisely in times of spiritual dryness that we must hold on to our spiritual discipline so that we can grow into new intimacy with God.”

Henri J.M. Nouwen

Additional Resources

Check out our website for more resources to help you flourish in the dry season:

<https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Bible Study: *flourishing in the Drought*, a Bible study on 1 Kings 17:1-6.

Devotional: *Flourishing in the Dry Season*

Craft Idea: *Desert in a Bottle*

Flourishing Story: Lt. Matilde Esparza shares her testimony of God being her guide. *This testimony is in Spanish only.*

A Prayer for Intensified Thirst

Every time you notice you are physically thirsty, and drink water to satisfy this thirst, pray this prayer and ask God to increase your spiritual thirst.

Dear Lord, In the busyness of every day life, sometimes I can feel so empty inside, so dry, so thirsty. I can be preoccupied with the tasks before me, forgetting Your presence. But then, in a moment, I feel my need for you. Like the psalmist, I cry out: ***I long to drink of You, O God, to drink deeply from the steams of pleasure flowing from Your presence. My longings overwhelm me for more of You! My soul thirsts, pants, and longs for the living God. I want to come and see the face of God*** (Psalm 42:1-4, Passion Translation).

Lord, I am so thirsty for Your living water. I long to know your presence even in my ordinary, everyday, routine life. You promise, ***“Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow within them”*** (John 7:37b-38). Lord, satisfy my thirst.

I wonder where I can go and meet You. When can I get a break? Where can I find a refuge in a sacred place? But then I remember that You are present. You are right here, with me, right now. I need only to remember You, to turn toward You, to open my heart to You. Because you are with me, right here, right now, this is a sacred place.

Help me, Lord, to meet you, not only in special times and places, but also in ordinary times and customary places. Thank you for being there even before I am aware of You. Thank you that those who thirst for you will be satisfied (Matthew 5:6). Amen.

Adapted from: <https://www.theologyofwork.org/resources/52-workday-prayers-psalm-42-thirsty-for-god>



Jesus is the One who satisfies our spiritual thirst.

Flourishing in the Word

One of the keys to flourishing in the dry seasons is to spend time in His Word. This month, let's find refreshment by reading the Gospel of John and learning more about Jesus who satisfies our spiritual thirst.

August 1	John 1:1-28	August 17	John 10:22-42
August 2	John 1:29-51	August 18	John 11:1-37
August 3	John 2:1-25	August 19	John 11:38-57
August 4	John 3:1-21	August 20	John 12:1-19
August 5	John 3:22-36	August 21	John 12:20-50
August 6	John 4:1-26	August 22	John 13:1-38
August 7	John 4:27-54	August 23	John 14:1-31
August 8	John 5:1-47	August 24	John 15:1-27
August 9	John 6:1-21	August 25	John 16:1-33
August 10	John 6:22-71	August 26	John 17:1-26
August 11	John 7:1-24	August 27	John 18:1-40
August 12	John 7:25-8:1	August 28	John 19:1-24
August 13	John 8:2-29	August 29	John 19:25-42
August 14	John 8:30-59	August 30	John 20:1-31
August 15	John 9:1-41	August 31	John 21:1-25
August 16	John 10:1-21		

Flourishing Ideas from the Territory

Anchorage, AK wrote letters to all the Western Territory Officers serving overseas.

Billings, MT offered to watch kids so parents could go on a date for Valentine's Day. They fed the kids, watched a movie and did crafts together. *This could be done for other holidays as well.*

Bozeman, MT celebrated national goof off day with a game night.

Chico, CA has a woman, who is a salvationist from Kenya. The women held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to raise money for the corps in Kenya. They were able to raise \$885 through this effort.

Concord, CA held a "Fancy Nancy" Tea Party. The decorations, costumes, games and devotional were based on the books/character of Fancy Nancy.

Kenai, AK as a group they prayed over the chairs and pews that more people would come to WM and the corps.

Kodiak, AK ladies made a quilt for the CO to take with her to Anchorage for surgery.

Kroc Center, HI had 6 women attend a local grief seminar and then they launched "Kroc Women on the Move" which includes Bible study and women's fellowship each month

Missoula, MT started holding a monthly fellowship, planned and facilitated by the WM group, to connect more people to WM and to the corps.

When Spiritually Dry, D.R.I.N.K.

During seasons of dryness, here are some tips of what to D.R.I.N.K. to help satisfy your spiritual thirst.

D—Draw Near to God. Don't withdraw from God, but spend time in prayer and reading His Word. *Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.* (James 4:8a).

R—Rely on God—don't lean on your own understanding. Even in the desert seasons, God is worthy to be trusted. Leaning on our own understanding will leads us on the wrong paths. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.* (Proverbs 3:5-6).

I—Include others. When you are spiritually dry, is not the time to isolate, but to connect with other believers in community and fellowship. *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing...* (Hebrews 10:24-25a).

N—New routines. During dry spells in our Christian lives, it is time to shake things up, and do something new. Use a new translation of the Bible, connect with God at a different time, listen to new worship songs. Look for new ways that God is working in your life. *He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God* (Psalm 40:3a).

K—Keep facts, not feelings, at the forefront. Feelings ebb and flow. Facts do not change. God is constant—His character and capability remain the same, even during spiritually dry times. *They will perish, but you remain; they will wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end* (Psalm 102:26-27).



...Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” John 7:37-38



Flourishing Fun in August

1. August 1 is Homemade Pie Day. Bake a pie.
2. Buy back to school supplies for a child.
3. Eat fruit and vegetables that are in season. Why not try a new recipe? August 3 is National Watermelon Day.
4. Enjoy S'mores in honor of National S'mores day on August 10.
5. Enjoy an outdoor concert or show.
6. Go camping, fishing or some other outdoor summer activity.
7. Go thrift store shopping in honor of National Thrift Shop Day on August 17.
8. Shop at the Local Farmer's Market.
9. Take a guided tour around your city (or neighboring one).
10. Throw an "End of Summer" Party.