



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Based on the message of Sunday September 18th

FOCUS ON THE PRESENCE

part 3 of 4

Please, take a minute to watch the video embeded on the above QR code.

HUNGER

Text: Jer 29:13

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

Hunger. The dictionary defines it as "Having a strong desire or craving for." God said it himself, the best way to find Him is to hunger for Him. In Matthew 5:6, Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." When we hunger after God, we touch his heart and cause Him to pour out His glory on us. In his book, *A hunger for God*, Mike Piper, says that our appetites dictate the direction of our lives — whether it be the cravings of our stomachs, the passionate desire for possessions or power, or the longings of our spirits for God. Our lives will be defined by what we most hunger for. If we put God first, if we hunger for him more than anything else, then our lives will gravitate towards God's Kingdom. When that happens, when we seek God's kingdom first, everything else falls into place.

Question: What measures can we take in order to put the kingdom of God first in our lives?

HUMILITY

Text: Psa 51:17

You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

King David wrote Psalm 51 as a declaration of repentance for his sin with Bathsheba. When the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to denounce David's sin, he became profoundly regretful and repented before the Lord. (2 Samuel 11-12). The Bible says that when we turn our hearts to God, He turns his heart to us (Zech 1:3). When we repent and confess our sins to God, He forgives us of our sins. He cleanses us from all our unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). In Matthew 23, Jesus says, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Humility is the key to God's heart. "Jesus prayed this prayer: "Oh Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding the truth from those who think themselves so wise, and for revealing it to little children" (Matthew 11:25).

Question: How can we maintain our hearts humble, teachable and childlike?

PRAISE

Text: 2 chr 5:14

So that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

Psalm 22:3 says: "God Inhabits the Praises of His People." Praise attracts the Presence of God. When we praise God and immerse ourselves in worship, we leave little or no room for anything else. When we focus on the Presence of God through praise, it becomes easier to listen to God and to silence all the other voices that try to steer us away from Him.

Question: What can you praise God for right now?