

1st week of November

Something more precious than life

- **Text:** Psalm 63:3~4 (November 2 text)
- **Bottom line:** God's lovingkindness in the midst of mortal suffering is more precious than life.

≡ 1. Praise

(Hymn 382) 너 근심 걱정 말아라

≡ 2. Prayer

God, our family has gathered in a blessed place to worship You. Thank you for Your love and grace, and give me the strength and wisdom to live in the world through Your Word.

≡ 3. The Word

Read Psalm 63:3~4 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.

<NASB>

³ Because Your ^{is} favor is better than life,
My lips will praise You.

⁴ So I will bless You as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands in Your name.

Understanding Text

The psalmist fled into a barren wilderness because his enemies sought him and destroyed him. He is a man of faith who confesses that God's mercy (love) is more precious than his own life, even in the midst of suffering. Those who know God's love are able to praise God with their voices without complaining or complaining under any circumstances.

Understanding the text for leaders

Psalm 63 is entitled, "The Psalm of David, When in the Wilderness of Judah." "They seek my soul, and seek to destroy it" (verse 9), tells us that the psalmist wrote this prayer when he was in the wilderness of Judah, being chased by his enemies. In a difficult and destitute situation, the psalmist longs for God and recalls the days of peace in the past (verses 1~2). Just as the parched land waits for the rain, his emaciated body and soul yearn for the Lord. Above all, he meditates on the times when he met God in the sanctuary, when he experienced His power and glory, and he longs for spiritual grace. Even in the barren wilderness, the psalmist can praise God because he is convinced that God's mercy (love) is better than his own life. He knows that without a deep relationship with God, his life is meaningless. The psalmist's soul, heated with God's love, raises his hands and joyfully praises God even in the barren wilderness. He vows to praise God for the rest of his life, to lift up his hands in prayer and exalt the name of the Holy Lord.

4. Sharing

1) Knowing the preciousness of God's mercy, what did the psalmist say he would do while he was alive? (verse 4).

Upper Grades

What did the author of the song of God's lovingkindness vow to do while he was alive? (verse 4).

Lower Grades

What did the psalmist, who is loved by God, say he would do while he was alive? (verse 4).

Question Guide

The psalmist, who has experienced the mercy of God, who is more precious than life, first confesses that he glorifies God with his mouth. I vow to keep trying to glorify God as long as I live.

Comments for Leaders

The psalmist was confident that God would help him. He knew that God's mercy was greater and more precious than his own life. So, even in the barren and barren wilderness, I did not complain or complain, but joyfully praised God. He confesses that he will not only praise God now when he hopes for salvation, but he will praise God "while he lives," that is, for the rest of his life. This is because I am confident that God's unfailing love and lovingkindness will always accompany him on the rough path of life.

2) When do I feel that God is loving, loving, and compassionate? Share your thoughts.

Upper Grades

What do you feel God's love is like? What is the hymn that best expresses my feelings?

Lower Grades

What's my favorite song? What kind of person do you feel about God when you sing that hymn?

□ Question Guide

Talk about God that you have recently experienced or realized through meditation, and sing a hymn that expresses God's character.

□ Comments for Leaders

Even if you're not in a life-threatening situation like the psalmist, you've probably experienced God's mercy in times of need. We must always remember and give thanks for God's graces, big and small. Just as the young David, who was tending the sheep in the field, relied on God to overcome the bear and the lion, and eventually defeated the Philistine giant Goliath, our experience of faith is revealed at a crucial moment. Confess every day that everything we enjoy is God's grace and love. In the midst of not only small difficulties but also immense hardships, you will be able to remember God and sing of His mercy.

≡ 5. Be grateful

Thank God for His grace in my life, big and small.

≡ 6. Prayer

God, when we are in distress, I want us to be people of faith who seek You even more. Rather than blaming people and circumstances, let us meditate on God's lovingkindness (love) to know God and praise His name with our voices.

- End the family worship service with the "Lord's Prayer"
