

GROWTH GROUP

Study Guide

Psalm 103:1-14 – Distorted Images of God:
Impossible Expectations?

My Story

1. Was there ever a time in your life when someone got the wrong impression of who you were/what you were about? What happened?

Digging Deeper

2. What do you think it means in Psalm 103:1 to bless/praise God with your whole heart or all that is within you? Is it possible to praise God half-heartedly and unenthusiastically? Explain.
3. Notice all the “benefits” David gives thanks for in Psalm 103:3-8. Are they mainly earthly/temporary, or are they longer lasting? On what do they seem to be fixed?

4. Read and compare Exodus 34:6-7 with Psalm 103:8-14. How is God able to both forgive and punish sin?

Reflection

5. In what ways have you ever felt like God’s expectations of you were impossible to achieve? How does the image of God presented in Psalm 103 challenge the image of a god-of-impossible-expectations?
6. When have you experienced God’s lovingkindness and compassion first hand? How have you benefited from it?

SERMON NOTES

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Taking the Next Step

Write a “gratitude list” each day this week, identifying specific gifts you are aware of receiving from God. Thank Him for being a God of compassion.

Praises / Prayer Requests

