



Leading People into a Growing  
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Series: Rock Classics!

Message: "On the Rocks"

Scriptures: Psalm 77, Joshua 3

Date: July 23-24, 2016

## Learn

Everyone is either coming out of a difficulty, going through a difficulty, or going into a difficulty. How do we approach God when our life is "on the rocks"? Take time to read this out loud in your group!

**Psalm 77 (NLT)** I cry out to God; yes, I shout. Oh, that God would listen to me! When I was in deep trouble, I searched for the Lord. All night long I prayed, with hands lifted toward heaven, but my soul was not comforted. I think of God, and I moan, overwhelmed with longing for his help.

You don't let me sleep. I am too distressed even to pray! I think of the good old days, long since ended, when my nights were filled with joyful songs. I search my soul and ponder the difference now. Has the Lord rejected me forever? Will he never again be kind to me? Is his unfailing love gone forever? Have his promises permanently failed? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he slammed the door on his compassion?

And I said, "This is my fate; the Most High has turned his hand against me." But then I recall all you have done, O LORD; I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago. They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about your mighty works.

O God, your ways are holy. Is there any god as mighty as you? You are the God of great wonders! You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations. By your strong arm, you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

When the Red Sea saw you, O God, its waters looked and trembled! The sea quaked to its very depths. The clouds poured down rain; the thunder rumbled in the sky. Your arrows of lightning flashed. Your thunder roared from the whirlwind; the lightning lit up the world! The earth trembled and shook.

Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters—a pathway no one knew was there! You led your people along that road like a flock of sheep, with Moses and Aaron as their shepherds.

How did Asaph, the author of Psalm 77, express his hurt?

Where did Asaph place his hope?

**Joshua 3:13 (NLT)** The priests will carry the Ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall.”

This historical account of God stepping in to provide for His people reminds us that when we experience impossible situations “downstream,” God is already working “upstream” to prepare the way for future provision and protection.

## Live

What is the nature of faith and trust?

What experiences have helped grow your faith in God?

What is God’s purpose for growing your faith?

## Love

One of the most important responsibilities that a Christian has is to hurt with those who hurt. Sadly, hurtful words can sometimes come from well-meaning but uninformed people. Have you ever encountered well-meaning but unkind words in the face of pain?

Rather than judging someone for the circumstances leading to their pain, Jesus commands us to weep with those who weep. How is this different from the world that often places blame or judgment rather than compassion?

How can you love your enemies without agreeing with them?

## Lead

Describe a conversation you need to have with someone that will help them put the focus on God’s goodness to give them strength to face their difficulties.

## Pray!

Take time to put the focus on God’s eternal characteristics. Pray and thank God for who He is and what He has done. Then ask Him for what you need, knowing that He is already working upstream!