

CAMP SUNDAY

GROUP GUIDE

Walking Through the Wilderness

MESSAGE RECAP

EXODUS 13-16 & DEUTERONOMY 8

In Exodus 13–16 and Deuteronomy 8, God intentionally led His people through the wilderness—not to punish them, but to prepare them. The wilderness became a place where they learned to depend on God's presence, witnessed His faithfulness, and grew in trust. The same is true for us today. Difficult seasons often become the places where God shapes our character and draws us closer to Him. Through Jesus, we have the gift of God's presence with us through the Holy Spirit, and our ultimate goal isn't simply reaching a better season in life—it's living in a deeper relationship with Him. Whether we find ourselves in hardship or abundance, we are called to keep following Jesus,

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Have you ever felt "in the wilderness" before?
- Read Deuteronomy 8:2 together
 - Have you experienced a season where God grew you through difficulty? What did you learn?
- When have you seen God prove Himself faithful?
- Read Deuteronomy 8:11-14 together
 - Why do you think its so easy to stop depending on God when things are going well?
 - What are some practical ways you can depend on God during both the hard and easy seasons?
- Read Romans 5:8 together
 - Jesus is the proof that God can be trusted- Where do you need to take a step and trust God in your life?
- End your time in prayer.

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GOING DEEPER

Read Matthew 4:1-11

The wilderness isn't just part of Israel's story; it's part of Jesus' story too. Before Jesus began His ministry, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness. The wilderness isn't always a sign that we've taken a wrong turn. Sometimes God leads us there because He wants to do a deeper work in us.

For forty days, Jesus experienced hunger, loneliness, and temptation. Yet in every moment, He chose to trust the Father instead of taking the easy way out. Each time Satan tempted Him, Jesus responded with God's Word, showing us that dependence on God is what gives us strength in difficult seasons.

- Matthew 4:4 quotes Deuteronomy 8:3: "Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Just as God taught Israel to depend on Him for daily manna in the wilderness, Jesus demonstrated complete dependence on the Father.
- Matthew 4:7 quotes Deuteronomy 6:16: "Do not test the Lord your God." Jesus trusted God's faithfulness without demanding proof.
- Matthew 4:10 quotes Deuteronomy 6:13: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him." Jesus chose faithfulness over temporary comfort or power.

The wilderness wasn't the end of Jesus' story—it was preparation for what God had called Him to do. The same is often true in our lives. God can use seasons of uncertainty, struggle, and waiting to deepen our faith, shape our character, and teach us to rely on Him more than our own strength. Because of His victory, we can trust Him to be with us in our own wilderness seasons.

- How does seeing the connections between the Old Testament and Jesus' life strengthen your confidence in the Bible?