

SERMON SERIES
COMMUNITY GROUP NOTES

Sermon title: **FAITH IN THE WILDERNESS**

Summary of sermon:

Exodus 16; Matthew 4

Our walk of faith from time to time takes us through wilderness experiences. God sometimes leads us into challenging situations so that our faith can be built little by little as we learn to put our trust in Him and see God working in our lives.

It is when we go through the wilderness that we need to keep our eyes firmly fixed on God remembering that He is walking with us as He has before and not fixing our eyes on the situations that can overwhelm us.

Discussion points:

1. The Israelites quickly forgot how the Lord had done great miracles in their past as they saw the next problem on the horizon. What specific times can you recall when the Lord intervened to bring victory in your life when you could only see defeat?
2. The Lord tests us to strengthen our faith out of His love for us. The enemy tempts us to cause us to fall in order to try and steal our faith. When we put our trust in God we know that He is with us whatever our circumstance. How did Jesus in Matthew chapter 4 stand against the devil? Do you have a favorite memory verse from scripture that strengthens you in times of trouble?
3. The Israelites lacked faith in God in the wilderness & finally wanted to return to Egypt. How can we best support, advise & love Christians who try to put their faith in God but are going through difficult times
4. Sometimes we can find ourselves in a barren dry place where we feel our faith is draining away, we lack faith and may feel defeated. God knows and wants us to just call out to Him, what practical steps can we take when we just don't "feel" faithful?

Action points: *how can we apply the word this week?*

1. Remember that the Lord is with you always and think back to when He clearly brought you through and let your faith be strengthened
2. Reach out to someone who you know is struggling in the wilderness and stand with them encouraging them where you can
3. Commit to memory a verse of scripture that will encourage you when next testing times come

Prayer points:

1. Pray for someone who is going through a wilderness experience presently, that they would keep their eyes on God and not focus on the circumstances
2. Pray for those who are in the wilderness that they will soon reach an Oasis moment and know that the Lord is our great provider our rest and our peace
3. Pray for those that feel they want to go back to Egypt after their faith has been severely shaken through recent testing times