



**Lent 2024**

**Session 1: A Spirit-Led Journey**

# WHAT KIND OF ROAD

by streams of abundance?

walking through wilderness?

sun shining down on you?

road marked with suffering?

# HAS BROUGHT YOU HERE?





(we say together:)

**If you're splashing in streams of abundance,  
we welcome you - share your joy.**

**If you're parched in a desert wasteland,  
we welcome you - share your doubts.**

**If you're relaxing in the light of contentment,  
we welcome you - share your peace.**

**If you're stumbling on a road of suffering,  
we welcome you - share your pain.**

(we pray together:)

**God of water, earth, light and brokenness  
we welcome you, as you welcome us.**

**Amen.**

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# Gathering Prayer...

**God of feasting and fasting, mountaintop and desert,  
you gather us together by your Holy Spirit.**

**May we follow Jesus into the wilderness,  
feeding on your living bread  
and tasting your water of life.**

**We come hungry and thirsty  
for more of you, God. Amen.**





[Leader:]

Sometimes we feel like we're walking through wilderness:

**[All:] Jesus we choose to walk with you.**

When our spirits feel dry, help us trust in your Spirit:

**Jesus we choose to walk with you.**

Fasting seems difficult, prayers seem unanswered:

**Jesus we choose to walk with you.**



The world howls like wild animals all around us:  
**Jesus we choose to walk with you.**

We can choose to worry, or to trust you to provide:  
**Jesus we choose to walk with you.**

Temptation is everywhere, doubts can overwhelm us:  
**Jesus we choose to walk with you.**





You know what it's like to walk through this desert:  
**Jesus we choose to walk with you.**

You long to transform us with wilderness worship:  
**Jesus we choose to walk with you. Amen,**

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**The Word of the Lord...**



1) Wilderness is not  
a sign of God's absence

*First  
Sunday*  
A SPIRIT-FILLED JOURNEY

*Worship*  
IN THE  
*Wilderness*

## **GROUPS 1:**

**Reflecting on the experience of God's people Israel and your own experience, what are the challenges with our relationship with God when struggles/trials/wilderness come?**



## 2) We are led by the Spirit into the wilderness

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## **GROUPS: 2**

**Reflecting on Jesus being sent into the wilderness by the Spirit (Mark 1:12), have you experienced a time or times where you thought God was calling you, sending you, empowering you, only for there to be trials, temptations, setbacks or disappointments? Times of refreshing followed by periods of dryness?**



# Obedience to the Holy Spirit

**Romans 8:5 *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.***

## **GROUPS 3:**

**With Romans 8:5 in mind, how do you get on with being obedient to God? Do you know the tension in you personally... where what you want is different to what God wants?**



# **The Assurance of the Holy Spirit**

**Romans 8:16 *The Spirit himself testifies  
with our spirit that we are God's  
children.***

## **GROUPS 4:**

**Reflecting on Romans 8:16, how much assurance do you have that God loves you, that you are his beloved child in whom he is well pleased?**

# **The Power of the Holy Spirit**

**Romans 8:26 *In the same way the Spirit [comes to us and] helps us in our weakness.***



## **GROUPS 5:**

**Reflecting on 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 and  
Jesus' dependency on the Lord  
throughout his trials, temptations and  
passion, what might we do to know God's  
strength and power at times of weakness?  
Have you known the strength and power of  
God's Spirit in your weakness?**

# 3) Wilderness is a place of worship and transformation

*First  
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*Worship*  
IN THE  
*Wilderness*

"Let my people go that they may  
worship me in the wilderness."  
(Exodus 7:16)

*First  
Sunday*  
A SPIRIT-FILLED JOURNEY

*Worship*  
IN THE  
*Wilderness*

**As the deer pants for the water,  
So my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You.***



**I want You more than gold or silver,  
Only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye.**

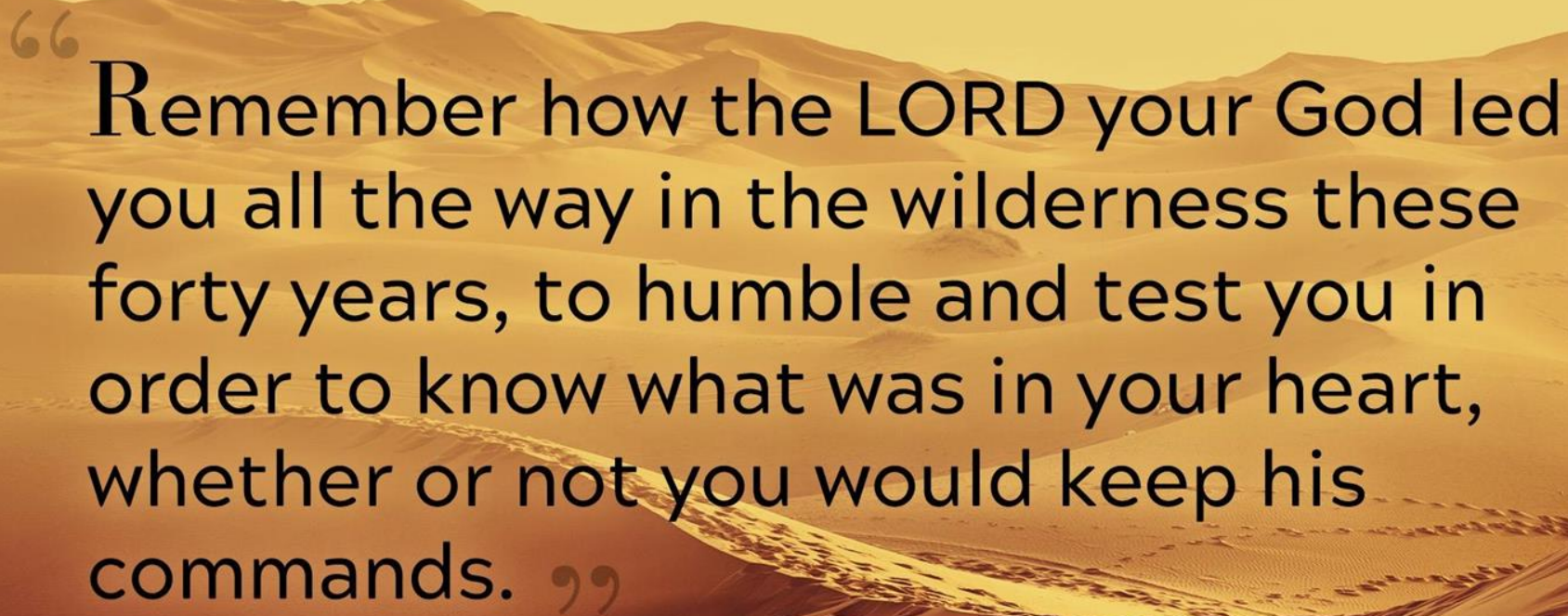
***You alone are my strength, my shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You.***

**You're my Friend and You are my brother,  
Even though You are a King.  
I love You more than any other,  
So much more than anything.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You.***

## **Sending Prayer:**

**Holy Spirit, fill us with your water of life,  
so that even as we walk through the desert  
we might know your refreshing  
and share it with those around us.  
Lead us, as you led Jesus,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**



“Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.”

Deut 8:2



“He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you.”


Deut 8:16





“You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.”

Deu 8:17



“But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today. ”

Deu 8:18