

GROWING IN THE WILDERNESS

LENT 2022 | DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

WEEK 1: CLEARER GROWING IN CLARITY

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the videos, for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

REFLECTION

Wilderness times are often difficult, but as the video mentions, many things can also grow there: thirst for God's word, faith, dependence on God, clarity of purpose.

"God uses the wilderness to give you clarity about who you are and whose you are. It's a clarity that often eludes us in abundance and comfort."

"God does God's best work in and through us in the wilderness." ~Bishop Wright

SCRIPTURE

Read one or more stories about those in the Bible who found themselves in the wilderness and how they grew there.

Read Matthew 4:1-4. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, and experienced the durability of depending on God and God's word.

Read Acts 7:20-33. After fleeing to Midian, Moses was in the wilderness 40 years before God appeared in the burning bush. Sometimes we are in the wilderness for what feels like a long time before we emerge anew.

Read 1 Kings 19:1-9. Elijah ran into the wilderness when he was afraid. God met him there and gave him exactly what he needed, strengthening him to keep going even when he wanted to give up.

DISCUSSION

- Describe a time when it's felt like you were "in the wilderness". What was that like and where was God in that?
- Looking back, what good things have come out of your wilderness times?
- Which Scripture about being in the wilderness resonates most with you right now? Why?
- What are some ways you are entering the wilderness this Lent? What practices might you take on or give up so that you can get away from abundance and comfort, and perhaps better see God during this Lenten season?

ARTICLES

For a deeper dive into the scriptural idea of "wilderness" see here:

<https://bibleresources.americانبible.org/resource/jesus-and-wilderness>

PRAYER

*This is the wilderness time,
when every path is obscure
and thorns have grown around the words
of hope.*

***Be the wings of our strength, O God,
in this time of wilderness waiting.***

Full prayer here:

http://www.theprovinceofjoy.com/?page_id=331

-Keri Wehlander, Canada from [600 Blessings and Prayers from Around the World](#)

TAKE-AWAY

Create space for wilderness this week by shedding comfort and abundance for a set amount of time: unplug from devices, pare down activities, disconnect for a while. You might even try spending that time outside, alone to let your heart and mind "reset" and reconnect with God.