

Questions for Personal Reflection:

1. Think about a time when you would say you went through a “wilderness experience?” How did you handle it at the time?
2. Looking back what do you think God was teaching you? Did you learn it? Why or why not?
3. What are the idols (or alternative stories) you’re tempted to turn to when you don’t understand what God is doing?
4. Would you say you are currently in a wilderness experience? What do you think God is trying to teach you or build in you?



In the Wilderness

The _____ we use shaped how we think.

The _____ is a place of spiritual struggle and questions, doubt, temptation and even a sense of isolation from God.

Israel's Journey

They were _____ in Egypt for 400 years.

God _____ rescued them

Exodus 16 – The Desert of Sin

- It took them about two weeks to start to _____.
- They were preoccupied with their _____.
- We often glorify the past because it was _____, not because it was _____.

Growth that happens in the wilderness when we shift our trust from our ability to _____ our lives to trusting in the _____ of God.

Exodus 17 – Rephidim

- Their sin was that they tried to _____ God.
- Growth is to learning to _____ ourselves; our wants and desires, and future to God's story.

Exodus 19, 32 – The Law and Idols

- They came to Mt. Sinai to receive the _____.
- When Moses was gone 40 days, they became tired of waiting, so they made a _____ to replace God.

Idols:

1. Always takes a form that reflects our surrounding _____.
2. Are things we are emotionally or physiologically _____ to.
3. Take the place of God.
4. Short-circuit the process of _____ God.

What Israel and Jesus show us about the wilderness

1. Wilderness experiences are _____ to bring us to _____.
2. The Word of God _____ us in the wilderness.
3. Wilderness and _____ are always linked.

God wants to form you into the kind of person who is capable of knowing and loving him at a deeper level.