

Sermon Study Guide

The Wilderness Builds What the Jacuzzi Never Will

Growth Happens in the Wilderness and the Film Room

Key Scripture

Romans 5:3–5

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Main Idea

God is more concerned with developing our character than preserving our comfort. The wilderness is where He grows us, and the Film Room is where we learn from what He is teaching us.

Opening Discussion

Ice Breaker

Think about a difficult season in your life.

Looking back now...

- What did you learn?
- How did it change you?
- Would you be the same person if you had never gone through it?

Question:

Why do you think we naturally seek comfort instead of growth?

Background

Throughout Scripture, God consistently develops His people before He deploys them.

Before the promotion comes the preparation.

Before the blessing comes the building.

God often allows seasons of hardship because He is producing something in us that comfort never could.

The Jacuzzi represents comfort.

The wilderness represents growth.

The Film Room represents honest self-examination.

Point One

Growth Begins Where Comfort Ends

Scripture

Hebrews 12:11

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace..."

Biblical Example

Joseph (Genesis 37–50)

Joseph dreamed of leadership.

Instead...

- Betrayed
- Sold into slavery
- Falsely accused
- Forgotten in prison

Yet every setback became preparation.

God was developing Joseph's character before giving him influence.

Key Truth

God often prepares us in places we would never choose.

Fill in the Blanks

God is more interested in my _____ than my _____.

Growth usually begins where _____ ends.

Preparation often comes before _____.

Discussion Questions

1. Where has God stretched you recently?
 2. What uncomfortable season helped you become stronger?
 3. Is there something difficult you're asking God to remove that He may be using to prepare you?
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Point Two

Pressure Reveals What We Really Trust

Scripture

Psalms 66:10

"You, God, tested us; You refined us like silver."

Biblical Example

Abraham (Genesis 22)

God asked Abraham to place Isaac on the altar.

The test wasn't about Isaac.

It was about trust.

Would Abraham trust God more than God's blessings?

Pressure revealed Abraham's faith.

Key Truth

Pressure doesn't create our character.

It reveals it.

Fill in the Blanks

Pressure reveals what is already in my _____.

God often tests my _____ before He entrusts me with greater responsibility.

Faith grows when I choose _____ over fear.

Discussion Questions

1. What does pressure usually bring out in you?
2. What areas of your life reveal a lack of trust?

3. How can difficult circumstances strengthen your faith?

Point Three

Growth Requires Resistance

Scripture

Philippians 3:13–14

"Forgetting what lies behind... I press on toward the goal..."

Biblical Example

David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

David's courage didn't begin with Goliath.

It began while protecting sheep.

He fought lions.

He fought bears.

The giant simply revealed years of faithful preparation.

Key Truth

Small battles prepare us for bigger assignments.

Fill in the Blanks

Resistance produces _____.

Faith grows through _____.

God often uses today's battle to prepare me for tomorrow's _____.

Discussion Questions

1. What "Goliath" are you facing today?
 2. How has God prepared you through smaller challenges?
 3. What would happen if you viewed obstacles as opportunities?
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Point Four

Every Man Needs a Film Room

Scripture

Psalms 26:2

"Test me, LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind."

Biblical Example

David's Repentance (Psalm 51)

After his sin with Bathsheba, David didn't blame others.

He examined himself.

He confessed.

He repented.

He invited God to change him.

His greatest failure became one of his greatest lessons.

Key Truth

Growth requires honest evaluation.

Fill in the Blanks

Without reflection, experience becomes
_____.

The Film Room is where God reveals my
_____.

Real growth begins with honest _____.

Personal Film Room Questions

Spend time this week asking God:

- What am I refusing to admit?

- What lesson keeps repeating?
- What habit needs to change?
- Where have I made excuses?
- What is God trying to teach me?

Discussion Questions

1. Why is self-examination difficult?
 2. What blind spots might God be trying to reveal?
 3. How can God's Word become your daily "Film Room"?
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Point Five

God Grows Us So We Can Help Others Grow

Scripture

2 Corinthians 1:3–4

"He comforts us... so that we can comfort others."

Biblical Example

Peter

Peter denied Jesus.

Jesus restored Peter.

Peter became one of the greatest leaders in the early church.

His greatest failure became one of his greatest ministries.

Key Truth

God never wastes pain.

Fill in the Blanks

My greatest struggle may become my greatest _____.

God comforts me so I can _____ others.

My scars can become someone else's _____.

Discussion Questions

1. Who has encouraged you because of what they've been through?
2. How has God used your hardships to help someone else?
3. Who needs to hear your testimony today?

Application

This week, spend at least **30 minutes in the Film Room** with God.

Read:

- Romans 5:3–5
- Hebrews 12:11
- Psalm 26:2
- Psalm 51
- 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

Journal your answers to these questions:

1. What wilderness am I currently walking through?
2. What is God teaching me?
3. What attitudes need to change?
4. What habits need to change?
5. What step of obedience is God asking me to take this week?

Memory Verse

Romans 5:3–4

"We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Weekly Challenge

Every evening this week, spend five minutes in God's **Film Room**.

Ask yourself:

- Where did I honor God today?
- Where did I miss the mark?
- What did God teach me?
- What will I do differently tomorrow?

Remember:

The goal isn't perfection.

The goal is growth.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for loving us enough not to leave us where we are. Forgive us for chasing comfort more than character. Help us to trust You in every wilderness season, knowing that You are shaping us into the men You have called us to be. Give us the humility to enter the Film Room, honestly examine our hearts, learn from our mistakes, and walk in obedience. May every trial produce endurance, every hardship

**strengthen our faith, and every lesson bring
glory to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**