

NOTES

Scripture: Exodus 13:17-18, Exodus 14:1-4, 10-14, Exodus 15:22-24, Exodus 16:1-3, Exodus 20:18-22, Numbers 13:1-2, Numbers 14:1-4, 20-25, and Nehemiah 9:19

REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

1. Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?
2. What did you do with what Chris challenged us last week around financial freedom? Did you take any specific actions around that? What are your thoughts a week later?

MY STORY

1. Do you think our culture influences you? How?
2. Do you influence culture? How?
3. What do comfort and safety mean to you?
4. Last week, Chris talked about the importance of contentment. What's the difference between contentment and comfort?

Fear of The Wilderness

5. Share a time when you fooled yourself into thinking that you were wiser than the God of the Universe.
6. Do you believe what our culture tells you about comfort? About safety? Why or why not?
7. How do you or have you adjusted your behavior to stay comfortable and safe? Has it worked? Is it worth it?
8. What wilderness seasons of life have you gone through? How did you react? What did you learn from those seasons? How have you applied what you learned?
9. What do you think the connection is between us being broken and fallen and the wilderness seasons we go through?
10. What is the connection between the fear you experience and your desire for comfort and safety?
11. When you have experienced a wilderness season, do you blame someone for it? If so, who do you blame? Have you ever blamed yourself? Have you ever blamed God?
12. Has there ever been a time when a wilderness season was because of your sin? How did it get resolved?
13. If the wilderness season was because of someone else, have you forgiven them? If so, how did you go about forgiving them? If not, have you tried? Talk in your Life group about what it means to forgive someone who has truly hurt you.
14. Share a story from a difficult season in your life when God was getting you ready for the next thing.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.

Read Exodus 14:10-14, Exodus 15:22-24, Exodus 16:1-3, Exodus 20:18-23, Numbers 13:1-2, Numbers 14:1-4, 1 Corinthians 10:23-33, Galatians 4: 1-11 and 21-31, Galatians 5:1 and 13-26, Romans 6:15-23, and Nehemiah 9:19

1. What do you learn about God in these passages?

Fear of The Wilderness

2. What do we learn about our human tendencies when we read these passages?
3. Jenn talked about how the Israelites were willing to die or go back into slavery to avoid the wilderness. How do you act in a similar fashion when you are willing to go back to the slavery of your sin to avoid discomfort, risk, and what God wants to teach you in the wildernesses?
4. Throughout the New Testament, the Apostle Paul spoke about how our choices will lead to either slavery or freedom. What specifically are you doing or allowing in your life enslaving you?
5. What specifically can you do to break the bonds of slavery in these areas?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. How do you view confrontation? Do you dread it, do you see it as something you don't like but know you have to do, do you see it as something you look forward to or some other way?
2. When it comes to confronting people about things you deem important, do you think you are generally overly aggressive, assertive to the degree you need to be, or excessively passive (people please-ey)? Ask someone you trust this same question – do they think you are overly aggressive, assertive, or excessively passive?
3. Think of the last time you encountered an issue that you deemed important and knew wrong. Did you confront someone over that issue, or did you compromise to keep the peace, stay comfortable, and protect your comfort and safety?
4. What do you do that you know isn't good for you, but it helps numb the feelings and remove your discomfort? How is doing this impacting your life? Your relationships? What's keeping you from changing?
5. Think about a wilderness season you are either in right now or have passed through. What happened? Who was involved? What did you learn in this season? Ask God for His wisdom and clarity about this season and to provide you understanding around that season.

Fear of The Wilderness

6. Have you forgiven whoever was the source of the pain you experienced during that season (even yourself, if the wilderness was the consequence of your actions)? If so, share with your Life Group what that looked like. Pray for one another. Ask God to equip each of you to forgive others and yourself based on the forgiveness He's extended to us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
7. Jenn told us that when we are going through the wilderness, it's important that we not give up and keep following God. How specifically do you keep following God when you're in a valley? How has this helped you? Where and how have you struggled with following God when you've found yourself in the wilderness? How do you push through those struggles and press on with trusting and following God?
8. How is God trying to move you out of your comfort and safety zone? How are you doing with obeying God in this call? How specifically are you obeying Him in this?
9. How are you being tempted to compromise when you shouldn't compromise? Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-16. What do you think God is saying to you in that passage?
10. Do you trust Jesus? Why or why not? What does trusting Jesus with your entire life look like to you? What has trusting Jesus meant to you in your life?
11. When Jenn says that we need to remember the goodness of God, what does that mean to you? Take a couple of minutes and think about specifically how God has shown His goodness to you. Praise Him and thank Him for His goodness. Commit to praising and thanking Him for His goodness every day.
12. What are you going to do with what you have learned in this message? How will you apply these lessons to your walk with Christ? Discuss with your Life Group. Commit to praying for and encouraging each other as you choose to forgive (yourself and others), stand firm against temptation, not be a slave to fear, embrace confrontation where appropriate, not compromise where you need to stand, and choose obedience to God over comfort and safety.

Your Next Steps are: 1) Ask God for His wisdom and clarity about a wilderness season you've experienced. Take time to explore what you learned during that time, 2) Remember the goodness of God and commit to thanking Him for His goodness in your life, and 3) review the steps in Question 12 above – ask God to help you choose to be obedient to Him in each of these areas.