

Life Group Questions and Message Notes

1. If the desert is where you grow the most, what are helpful ways you stay faithful and patient in it?
2. Has there ever been a time in your life where you had peace in the middle of chaotic circumstances?
3. What are you attuned to? Would you be attentive if God tried to speak to you?

Rivers in the Desert – Experiencing An Oasis of Blessing In The Middle of Life’s Problems

Pastor Kerry and Chris Shook - August 14th, 2022

“Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.”

Psalm 126:4-6 (NIV)

- God’s Greatest Blessings Are Found In The Middle of Life’s Deserts

“Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.” Psalm 126:4 (NIV)

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” John 14:27 (NLT)

- God’s Greatest Miracles Are Found In The Middle of Life’s Deserts

What Do You Do In The Desert?

1. DON’T RUN FROM YOUR PAIN

“Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.” Psalm 126:5 (NIV)

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
John 16:33b (NIV)

“But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand.” Isaiah 64:8 (ESV)

2. EMBRACE THE PLACE

“Do not come any closer,’ God said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Exodus 3:5 (NIV)

Serenity Prayer:

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next.” Amen -- Reinhold Niebuhr

3. STEP INTO THE PLACE OF BLESSING

“Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” John 7:38 (NIV)

“Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.” Psalm 126:6 (NIV)