

Small Group Guide: Into the Wilderness - Pharaoh's Compromises

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What's one area of your life where you find it hardest to fully surrender to God? (finances, relationships, career, time, etc.)

Sermon Overview

This message explores the four compromises Pharaoh offered to keep the Israelites from fully separating from Egypt and worshiping God. These compromises mirror the tactics the enemy uses today to keep believers from complete surrender to Christ.

Key Scripture: Exodus 5-10; 1 Corinthians 10:1-12

Key Takeaways

1. **Egypt = The World System** (ruled by Satan as Pharaoh)
2. **The Wilderness = Putting Down the Flesh** (learning to die to self)
3. **Canaan = Victorious Christian Life** (spiritual warfare and obedience)
4. **God calls us to complete separation**, not compromise with the world

Discussion Questions

The Initial Attack (Exodus 5)

Before the compromises even began, Pharaoh made life harder for the Israelites.

1. Have you experienced times when following Jesus seemed to make life more difficult rather than easier? How did you respond?
2. Read Exodus 6:9. The people "did not listen to Moses on account of their despondency and cruel bondage." What "cruel bondages" in our lives make it hard to hear God's voice?
3. Why does the enemy often increase pressure when we're considering deeper commitment to Christ?

Compromise #1: Stay in Egypt (Exodus 8:25)

"Go sacrifice to your God, but stay around here. Don't go very far."

4. What does it look like practically to "stay in Egypt" while claiming to follow Jesus?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 6:17 and James 4:4. Why is separation from worldly values so important to God?
6. In what areas of life are Christians most tempted to stay "connected to Egypt"? (entertainment, relationships, business practices, social media, etc.)

Compromise #2: Don't Go Far (Exodus 8:28)

"You can leave Egypt, but don't go very far. Stay connected."

7. The sermon mentioned the story of Lot choosing the valley near Sodom. What was the long-term consequence of his "not going far" from the world?
8. Read Revelation 3:15-16 (the lukewarm church). How does this compromise create lukewarm Christianity?
9. What does "three days journey into the wilderness" represent for us today? What would complete separation look like?

Compromise #3: Leave Your Family Behind (Exodus 10:8-11)

"Let the men go, but leave your children and families behind."

10. Why is it so critical that we bring our families with us in following Christ rather than leaving their spiritual formation to the world?
11. Read Proverbs 22:6 and Genesis 18:19. What practical steps can parents/guardians take to "raise children in the way they should go"?
12. The sermon mentioned a father who said, "We want our kids to come to Jesus on their own without our influence." What's wrong with this approach? How do we balance teaching faith without forcing it?

Compromise #4: Leave Your Treasure Behind (Exodus 10:24)

"Take everyone, but leave your flocks and herds (your wealth) here."

13. Read Matthew 6:21 - "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." How does holding onto worldly wealth keep our hearts divided?
14. Why is financial surrender often the last area Christians are willing to give to God?
15. How does tithing and generous giving demonstrate trust in God's provision? Share testimonies of God's faithfulness when you've given sacrificially.

Personal Reflection Questions

(Take 5 minutes for silent reflection)

- Which of the four compromises am I most susceptible to?
- What is God asking me to surrender in 2026?
- Am I willing to say, "Lord, what do You ask of me?" instead of "Lord, what do I need from You?"

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE area where you'll practice complete surrender:

Option 1: Separation from Worldly Influence

- Identify one worldly habit/influence you'll eliminate this week
- Replace it with something that draws you closer to God

Option 2: Family Discipleship

- Parents: Schedule a family devotion time this week
- Singles: Reach out to encourage a younger believer

Option 3: Financial Surrender

- If you don't tithe, commit to starting
- If you tithe, ask God if He's calling you to sacrificial giving beyond the tithe
- Take a specific financial concern to God in prayer and trust Him with it

Option 4: Go Deeper

- Commit to daily Bible reading and prayer
- Find an accountability partner to check in weekly

Memory Verse

Joshua 24:15 - "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Closing Discussion

16. What's one specific thing God spoke to you about during this study?
17. How can this group pray for you as you pursue complete surrender to Christ in 2026?

Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- For courage to resist the enemy's compromises
- For complete surrender in every area of life
- For spiritual protection over families
- For faith to trust God with finances
- That 2026 would be a year of true separation and dedication to Christ

Looking Ahead

Next week: **The Passover and Entering the Wilderness** (Exodus 11-13)

Preparation: Read Exodus chapters 11-15 before next week's gathering.