



Sermon Discussion Guide




Exodus: Wilderness

Exodus 16:1-5, 13-35

Ray Cortese, January 28 & 29, 2017

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Exodus 16:1-5, 13-35. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever been in "the wilderness"? What do you remember about that experience?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

WILDERNESS: FEAR IS REVEALED

- 3 What actions on the part of the Israelites revealed their fearfulness? Are you a fearful or anxious person?
- 4 Honestly complete the following sentence: "If I had _____, then my life would be better." Discuss why you filled in the blank the way you did.
- 5 Are you a hoarder? When was the last time you had to trust God for daily provision?

WILDERNESS: DEPENDENCE IS LEARNED

6 Read Deuteronomy 8:2-5. What is the problem with a microwave versus a crockpot mentality when it comes to growing as a Christian?

7 Discuss the following quote by Dan Allender:

“Our spiritual journey must lead through the desert or else our healing will be the product of our own will and wisdom. It is in the silence of the desert that we hear our dependence on noise. It is in the poverty of the desert that we see clearly our attachments to the trinkets and baubles we cling to for security and pleasure. The desert shatters the soul’s arrogance and leaves body and soul crying out in thirst and hunger. In the desert, we trust God or die.”

8 Similar to question four above, how would you complete the following sentence: “It’s not _____ I need, it’s God I need”?

WILDERNESS: GRACE IS EXPERIENCED

9 How was God’s grace towards the Israelites demonstrated in the wilderness?

10 Ray said, “There is nothing that you need that you won’t receive,” and “God will give you everything needful”. What is the difference between God giving us what we want versus giving us what we need? How does a parent-child relationship illustrate this point?

11 What are some ways by which you could cultivate daily gratitude in your life?

12 Why was it significant that the manna God supplied the Israelites tasted like honey? How does this relate to us?

13 How did Jesus respond when tempted and tried in the wilderness? How was that necessary for our salvation?

Step 3: Final Reflections

✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?

♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?