

Seeing Jesus through the Uncertainty

AN INTERACTIVE FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

TRUSTING THE LORD IN THE WILDERNESS

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Main Idea

WE CAN TRUST THAT GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US, EVEN IN THE WILDERNESS.

Memory Verse

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.”**

PROVERBS 3:5-6, ESV

LEADER: Can you tell me about a time when you got lost and couldn't find your family? How did you feel?

Go around the family and have everyone give an answer. Here are some answers you may hear:

- I got lost in a grocery store or a mall. I felt scared and lonely.*
- I couldn't find my mother or father in my home. I felt confused and angry.*

LEADER: When you hear the word “wilderness” or “desert”, what do you think of? How would you describe it? (Depending on the age of the children, it may help to show them pictures of a desert or forest and ask them to describe it. What things do they see? What do they not see?).

Answer: When I think of the wilderness, I think of being alone and lonely. There is not much in the wilderness except for you and nature.

LEADER: A wilderness is a lonely place. It is a place that is forgotten, and there isn't usually a lot of stuff in a wilderness. (Describe a time when you, the leader, saw or was in a wilderness—perhaps you found yourself in the middle of a forest or desert). Right now, we're not in an actual wilderness, but sometimes when we are in a hard season, it can feel like we're in a wilderness. When have you been in a hard season and felt like you were in a wilderness?

Allow each family member to share a time when they were in a hard season that felt like a wilderness.

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LEADER: The wilderness we sometimes feel inside of us is a scary place. It can be lonely, painful and discouraging. But thankfully we are never alone. Today, we're going to read a story about how God's people were in a wilderness, and they had similar feelings.

Read Deuteronomy 8:2 out loud together.

LEADER: God's chosen people, the Israelites, were wandering through an actual wilderness. Guess how many years they wandered. Not one year. Not five years. They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years! It was a long and hard 40 years, too. They walked through a hot desert with no water. They walked through places where there wasn't very much to eat and they were hungry. They were getting very upset with God and Moses, their leader. Describe how the think Israelites felt or what they were thinking as they were wandering in the wilderness for 40 years?

Possible Answers:

- They felt tired, angry, lonely, forgotten by God, sad, hungry, thirsty, lost
- They may have been wondering: "God are you there?" "God have you forgotten about us?" "God, you said you would never leave us, but where are you now?" "God doesn't care about us!"

LEADER: Moses could see the Israelites were getting angry, and he tried to encourage them and share with them the ways God kept His promises to them. But they were so sad and angry that they couldn't see that God had been with them the whole time.

LEADER: Each time the Israelites were in need, God showed up and provided in amazing ways. He provided water when they were thirsty, food (manna, a type of bread) when they were hungry and guidance when they seemed to be lost. All the while, He was testing them and teaching them.

Read Deuteronomy 8:3 out loud together.

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LEADER: It was easy for them to forget the ways God provided for them when they were in a hard season. What about you? How did God provide for you in the hard season that you shared before (either from what they shared today or last week)?

Some answers may include:

- *When my grandmother died, and I felt sad and scared. God comforted me through my dad.*
- *I have felt scared and lonely at school when my friends were mean to me. I think God comforted me when that other girl asked if I wanted to play with her.*

LEADER: No matter how long you're there, walking through a wilderness can be hard. We need faith to trust that Jesus knows what He is doing, even when we don't understand. In these moments, we are humbled because we have to rely on God. Can you see any ways God has been providing for your now in this season?

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ACTIVITIES

Try doing one of these activities a day as a family to help you remember the lesson. Each day, repeat the memory verse and the main idea.

- DAY 1:** Complete the devotional lesson as a family.
- DAY 2:** Write your memory verse using chalk! Post a picture, and tag us with the hashtag: #TrustJesusInTheWilderness #NAMBFamDevo
- DAY 3:** Use the memory verse tool on the next page to help you memorize the verse.
- DAY 4:** Go for a walk today! Discuss what it means to “wander”—a journey with no destination. Imagine being the Israelites, wandering for 40 years. How would they feel?
- DAY 5:** Think of a place you visit often. Have your kids write (or just tell) the steps to get to that place from your home. It’s harder than you think! Moses didn’t know the steps of the journey, but he knew God asked him to go.
- DAY 6:** Play “Moses says.” Take turns letting different family members play “Moses”, using the same rules as Simon Says. It’s hard to follow directions—imagine doing that for 40 years.
- DAY 7:** Color the provided picture of this story. Either have each member of your family color their own, or color it together as a family.

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MEMORY VERSE INSTRUCTIONS

The memory verse activity is included on the following page.

1. Fold the paper along the dotted lines so the scripture memory sheet is folded into fifths.
2. Fold the paper so only the top verse (presentation one) is showing.
3. Read the verse out loud five times.
4. Turn the first fold backwards so it's no longer visible and only presentation two is visible.
5. Keep presentation one hidden and fill in the blanks of presentation two.
6. Fold the page again to presentation three. Fill in the blanks of presentation three.
7. Fold the page again to presentation four. Fill in the blanks of presentation four.
8. Turn to presentation five. Just looking at the first letter of each word, attempt to say the entire verse on presentation five. Practice saying the verse aloud again.

PROVERBS 3:5-6, ESV

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
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In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.”

PROVERBS 3:5-6, ESV

“Trust in the Lord with all your h____,
and do not lean on your own u_____.
In all your w____ acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.”

PROVERBS 3:5-6, ESV

“Trust in the L____ with all your h____,
and do n____ lean on your own u_____.
In all your w____ acknowledge h____,
and he will make s_____ your paths.”

PROVERBS 3:5-6, ESV

“T_____ in the L_____ with all your h____,
and do n_____ l_____ on your own u_____.
In a_____ your w_____ a_____ h____,
and h_____ will make s_____ your p_____.”

PROVERBS 3:5-6, ESV

“T i t L w a y h,
a d n l o y o u.
l a y w a h,
a h w m s y p.”

DEUTERONOMY 8:2-3

