



### **3 things that will help you in the wilderness:**

- The wilderness is only a seasonal event.
- Though you feel isolated, God is present.
- What you do, is what gets you through.

### **The purpose of the wilderness:**

- To strengthen our faith.

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.

4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

5 For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.

6 Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer.

7 We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us.

8 We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it.

9 In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead.

10 And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us.

2 Corinthians 1:3-10 (NLT)

### **Chaos forces us to come to terms with:**

- The conflict we have with people.
- The conflict we have with ourselves.
- The struggle we have with God.

### **Chaos in the wilderness:**

- Joseph did nothing wrong.
- People he loved most betrayed him.
- God was in the chaos.

2 The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. Genesis 39:2 (NLT)

19 But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you?"

20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

21 No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them. Genesis 50:19-21 (NLT)

### **The chaos teaches us to:**

- Trust God, not understand why.
- Love people, not retaliate.
- Humble ourselves, not focus on ourselves.

16 "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires." Genesis 41:16 (NIV)

4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT)

## **Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754**

### **Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:**

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- Have you read the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50? What from the story stood out most to you?
- Remember, the wilderness is not about the forest. How would you describe a wilderness experience?
- How does chaos force us to deal with the conflict we have with people, ourselves and God?
- If you were to put yourself in Joseph's shoes, how would you have responded to the chaos he was going through? (sold into slavery, betrayed by his brothers)
- Are you able to recognize God in the chaos of your life, like Joseph did?
- When experiencing chaos, do you try to figure out "why" this is happening to you? How does that hurt us in the long run?
- In chaos, are you able to love the people who hurt you? How?
- In chaos, are you able to humble yourself? What does that look like?

**Connection Group Leaders:** Remind your group of the following announcements:  
**Saturday Service** - Mar. 18th      **Coaches Meeting** - March 19th

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