



The benefits of the wilderness depend upon our actions in the wilderness.

### The Wilderness:

- The wilderness has a bad reputation, but good results.
  - The wilderness can be lonely, but not absent of God.
- 5 ...God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."  
Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

### Definition: Courage

- The ability to do something that frightens us.
- Strength we need in a time of adversity.

1 The wicked flee when no one is chasing them! But the godly are bold as lions!  
Proverbs 28:1 (TLB)

7 God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid but a spirit of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7 (NCV)

### How God uses the Wilderness develops courage:

- The wilderness forces us to face our fears.

- The wilderness magnifies our need.

30 Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.  
Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)

- The wilderness can turn us to God.

35 He changes a wilderness into a pool of water and a dry land into springs of water...  
Psalms 107:35 (NASB)

- 1 The LORD now said to Moses,
  - 2 "Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes."
  - 3 So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He sent out twelve men, all tribal leaders of Israel, from their camp in the wilderness...
- Numbers 13:1-3 (NLT)

### Their report:

27 This was their report to Moses: "We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. Numbers 13:27 (NLT)

28 But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak!  
Numbers 13:28 (NLT)

### The by-product of not trusting God:

- Fear

31 But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. "We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" Numbers 13:31 (NLT)

- Despair

1 Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night.  
Numbers 14:1 (NLT)

- Complaining

2 Their voices rose in a great chorus of complaint against Moses and Aaron. "We wish we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they wailed.  
Numbers 14:2 (NLT)

- Rebellion

4 Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a leader and go back to Egypt!"  
Numbers 14:4 (NLT)

### The difference Courage makes:

- Willing to be different from the others.

30 But Caleb tried to encourage the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!" Numbers 13:30 (NLT)

- Focused on what God can do.

8 And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey, and he will give it to us!  
Numbers 14:8 (NLT)

- Sure of God's presence.

9 They have no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don't be afraid of them!"  
Numbers 14:9 (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.*

- Do you consider yourself to be a courageous person? Explain
- What does courage look like to you? How does that courage affect your Quest with God?
- The "wilderness" is not, necessarily, a physical location. How would you describe the experiences that define a "wilderness" experience?
- Are you familiar with the story of Joshua and Caleb in Numbers 13 and 14? What is your favorite part of the story? Why
- Talk through the sub-points under "The by-product of not trusting God". Which of these do you deal with most?
- Talk through the sub points under "The difference courage makes". Which of these is God currently developing in your life?

**Connection Group Leaders:** Remind your group of the following announcements:  
Rock and Worship Road Show - March. 12th **Saturday Service** - March 18th

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