



### The Wilderness:

- ... is not a place to avoid, but embrace.
- ... is a place of preparation.
- ... is a place of safety.

55 Oh, that I had wings like a dove! For then I would fly away and be at rest.  
 56 Indeed, I would wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Psalm 55:6-7 (GWT)

### The wilderness is a refuge that allows:

- God to establish our worth, not others.

16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!

18 I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me! Psalm 139:16-18 (NLT)

### The wilderness provides a safe place to:

Find strength for life?

3 But you, O LORD, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high. Psalm 3:3 (NLT)

4 "Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today the LORD is telling you, 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.'" So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe.

1 Samuel 24:4 (NLT)

5 But then David's conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul's robe.

6 "The LORD knows I shouldn't have done that to my lord the king..."

1 Samuel 24:5-6 (NLT)

### The wilderness is a refuge that allows:

- God to speak to our heart, over others.

### The wilderness provides a safe place to:

Get direction for my life.

24 You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. Psalm 73:24 (NLT)

13 .... "All Israel has joined Absalom in a conspiracy against you!"

2 Samuel 15:13 (NLT)

5 And the king gave this command...."For my sake, deal gently with young Absalom." And all the troops heard the king give this order to his commanders.

2 Samuel 18:5 (NLT)

### The wilderness is a refuge that allows:

- God to heal the wounds caused by others.

### The wilderness provides a safe place to:

Discover the comfort I need for life.

5 Then I pray to you, O LORD. I say, "You are my place of refuge. You are all I really want in life. Psalm 142:5 (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 find that the wilderness to be a place of refuge for you? What does refuge mean to you?
- Were there any parts of David's story that spoke most to you? Why?
- Which of David's wilderness experiences do you identify with? Explain.
- Alone time with God allows Him to re-establish our value and worth. In your experience, how does God do this?
- Why is it important to be able to hear God's voice over others?
- What might have been the outcome if David had listened to his warriors over God? (1 Samuel 24:4)
- In your experience, how does God heal the wounds caused by others?
- What do we need to learn from David that would allow us to see the wilderness as a place of refuge?

**Connection Group Leaders:** Remind your group of the following announcements:

**We need Easter Candy**

**Invite your friends to Easter - April 16th**

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