



The WILDERNESS Mission | May 3

Exodus 3:1; Exodus 32; Numbers 14; Jeremiah 6:16; Acts 2:42-47

Context: As we continue through another week of shelter-in-place and on-line learning, have you begun to miss some things? We sometimes associate lack, not having all we need, with words like frontier, underdeveloped or even wilderness. You may be facing a “social wilderness.” Or if you are out of work it may be a “financial wilderness.”

- What are you missing these days?
- What kind of a wilderness do you find yourself in?

Hope in the Wilderness: Pastor Eric Camfield reminds us of the many types of wildernesses that are touched by Christ Church and supported mission partners:

- By The Hand Club the after school wilderness
 - Pacific Garden Mission the homeless wilderness
 - Prison Fellowship the incarcerated wilderness
 - Dotun Modupe the Nairobi, Mathare Valley wilderness
 - Step Forward Ministry the Middle East leadership wilderness
 - LifeBuilders the Nigerian AIDS & poverty wilderness
 - India Gospel League the Indian & SE Asia unreached wilderness
 - Christ Church the COVID shelter-in-place wilderness
- What stirs in you as you hear the brief stories of how these mission partners proved hope in the midst of their wilderness?
 - Often prayer for others puts a new perspective on what we are experiencing. Take a few moments to pause and pray for a few of these missional efforts.

Wilderness Defined: Wilderness can be defined as a place or a season that is barren, bereft, challenging, or difficult to navigate. Usually it is the absence of something that causes the difficulty.

- What aspects of your life right now would be described as the above? Be as specific as possible.
- What have you handled well or perhaps not so well? Why?

God Uses the Wilderness: Pastor Eric reminded us of the formational truth that the wilderness is the pathway of God’s Mission. Consider Abraham, The Exodus, Captivity, Jesus’ 40-days, the Church.

- What does this formational truth stir in you? Does it encourage? Give hope? Discourage? Why?
- What lessons can you learn from the wilderness time of others for your current season of life?



Formational Points From the Wilderness... Pastor Eric walks through what happens in the wilderness. Reflect on how you see this in the life of the nation of Israel and Jesus and the early Church. Then lay these formational points over your own situation and discern what they reveal.

- God forms (a people and a person). How has God been forming you during this time? Where have growth areas been for you? Where have your strengths been highlighted?
- God's people come face to face with rebellion or faith. How has this time challenged your faithfulness to Jesus? What has it revealed to you?
- We are Tested. Where has your focus been during this time? On self, Jesus? Others? Why? Would you like to change any of that focus?
- The needs of life and the soul are revealed. What have been your biggest realizations about your family? Work? Church? Relationship with Jesus?

A Missional Perspective: Pastor Eric outlined some steps to take on the Journey THROUGH the Wilderness:

- Be HONEST with yourself and with God.
 - LOOK around; God is with you and working ahead of you.
 - Take another STEP. Journey through one step at a time.
 - Journey in GENUINE COMMUNITY. Acts 2:42-47
- Which of these steps resonate with you? Which seems most problematic?
 - How can your small group or the larger community of Christ Church help you with the above ideas? Share ideas and encourage each other towards this end right now.

Practice of the week: Reflective Journaling

Live out Pastor Eric's steps above, continue to reflect on the Formational Points From the Wilderness section. Bring each of the provided questions before God and journal through what you discern as God's response to you during this current time. Then live as a faith-filled follower of Jesus in the midst of the wilderness.

We'd love to hear from you especially during this quarantine time!
Simply let us know how you are doing as a group or using the study guides.
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