

FINDING THE LOVE OF JESUS

& LOVING HIM BACK

Discipleship Essential: Knowing God

Series: Finding the Love of Jesus and Loving Him Back

Study 4: In the Wilderness

Finding the Love of Jesus and Loving Him Back: In the Wilderness
(through grief, loss and sorrow)

Introduction

Would you ever willingly choose the wilderness? Most of us wouldn't. Yet throughout Scripture, the wilderness is often a place where God meets His people, shapes their character and deepens their dependence on Him. In Matthew 4, Jesus Himself was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. This study explores how seasons of testing, waiting and dependence can become places where we discover the love of Jesus more deeply and learn to love Him back.

Read Matthew 4:1–11

Before beginning His public ministry, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, where He was tempted by the devil. Although physically hungry and vulnerable after forty days of fasting, He remained faithful by relying on God's Word rather than seeking comfort or taking shortcuts. Jesus resisted every temptation by trusting His Father's will rather than seeking immediate relief, recognition or control.

Our own wilderness seasons may look different. They might involve waiting for healing, longing for a child, navigating uncertainty, unanswered prayer, financial pressure or a season where God feels silent. Whatever the wilderness looks like, Jesus understands what it is to walk through testing and remains with us.

DISCUSS

1. Have you ever found yourself in a wilderness season?
2. What was something you learnt about God during this time?

REFLECT

Throughout His time in the wilderness, Jesus responded to every temptation with God's Word. Rather than allowing His circumstances to define Him, He remained anchored in the truth of His Father's voice and promises. Wilderness seasons often reveal what we truly depend on and invite us to trust God's character more deeply.

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DIG DEEPER

The wilderness wasn't a sign that the Father had abandoned Jesus. Instead, it became the place where Jesus' trust and obedience was revealed. In the same way, our own wilderness seasons can expose what we rely on most and invite us to deepen our dependence on Jesus. Rather than seeing these seasons as something to escape as quickly as possible, we can trust that God is at work, strengthening our faith and drawing us closer to Him.

DISCUSS

1. What are some of the temptations or distractions we can face during wilderness seasons that make it difficult to trust God?
2. Can you recall a time when God strengthened your faith or revealed more of Himself during a wilderness season?

APPLICATION

Jesus' time in the wilderness reminds us that seasons of testing are not a sign that God has abandoned us. Instead, they can become places where our trust is strengthened and our dependence on Him grows. As we remain close to Jesus, we can discover His faithfulness even in difficult seasons.

DISCUSS

How might this passage shape the way you respond the next time you find yourself in a wilderness season?

PRAY

Jesus Christ, we come before you and acknowledge that there are times when life is difficult and our battles feel long. Thank you that you understand what it is to be tested and that you walk with us through every wilderness season. Help us to trust you when life feels uncertain, to remain anchored in your Word and to depend on your strength rather than our own. Meet us where we are today - comfort us, strengthen us and remind us of your faithful presence. May our lives bring you glory and point others to you. Amen.