

The Roundabout Ways of God

May 31, 2020

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Exodus 13:17-18, 21-22](#) and [Exodus 14:1-31](#)

REFLECT: God rescued the Israelites from slavery in dramatic fashion, and led them toward the land promised to them. What could have been a 2-week journey from Egypt to Canaan became a 40-year trek through the wilderness. Why did God lead them this roundabout way? What did they need to learn in the desert?

What is your wilderness? Is it relational, spiritual, emotional or personal? Name your wilderness. What are you learning?

PRAY: Praise God that His power and might have rescued your life. Thank Him for the hope you have in His faithfulness, His promises, His gift of eternal life. Ask Him to open your heart and your mind this week to see the things He wants to teach you each day in the wilderness; to recognize that He walks with you each day in the wilderness; to experience the joy of His presence even in the wilderness

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: "[The Rescue](#)" gives an overview of the greatest event in the Old Testament, the Exodus. From the Bible Project on RightNow Media. [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up [here](#).]

Day 2-

READ: [Isaiah 40:1-31](#)

REFLECT: The Old Testament prophets have a lot to say about waiting on God during difficult times. Their repeated refrain was for God's people to fix their eyes Him, follow Him, wait for Him, obey Him, for one day will come their redemption, the Messiah. Jesus. What do you learn about God in Isaiah 40? What is the promise for those who wait on the Lord?

What are you waiting for? Name it. What is God teaching you in the waiting?

PRAY: Read Isaiah 40 again and pull out the words or phrases that resonate with your soul today. Use them to write a prayer from your heart to the Lord.

PRACTICE: Consider writing yourself a sticky note or setting an alarm to remind yourself to trust God in the wilderness, to trust Him in the waiting. Use a verse from Isaiah 40.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LISTEN: Learn more about waiting on the Lord in this short [RightNow Media video](#).

REFLECT: "I'm learning to trust in a good, loving God, not in a desired outcome."

Day 3-

READ: [Isaiah 43:1-28](#)

REFLECT: In this chapter the prophet Isaiah looks back to the exodus and looks ahead to a better exodus, which will be fulfilled in Jesus. Who does the Lord reveal Himself to be in this chapter? From what were the Israelites rescued in the first exodus? From what does Jesus rescue us?

PRAY: Read Isaiah 43 again and pull out the words or phrases that resonate with your soul today. Use them to write a prayer from your heart to the Lord.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WORSHIP & PRAY: Listen to the lyrics of [Wait Upon the Lord](#) by Leeland in a posture of praise and prayer.

Day 4-

READ: [Habakkuk 2:1-4](#); [Lamentations 3:22-26](#)

REFLECT: What picture of waiting on the Lord does Habakkuk paint for your mind? What encouragement do you find in Jeremiah's words in Lamentations 3? It is good to remind ourselves who God is in the waiting!

PRAY: Use Lamentations 3 to lead you into prayer. Who in your life is also in a waiting season? Ask God to give you wise words of encouragement to share with them.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRAY: This [prayer](#) from Gospel Coalition contributor Scotty Smith comes from [Psalm 40](#).

Day 5-

READ: [Genesis 12:1-3](#); [2 Corinthians 1:20](#); [Proverbs 3:5-6](#); [2 Peter 3:8-9](#)

REFLECT: Genesis 12 is God's promise, the Abrahamic covenant. 2 Corinthians points to the fulfillment of that promise. Proverbs instructs your posture before God as you wait on His answers. 2 Peter reminds you of God's good timing. Write those verses on a page together and read them again out loud. Reflect on all that you have read and learned this week- of what can you be certain? Of what can you be sure?

PRAY: Write a prayer of faith to your ever-faithful, steadfast, loving Lord. ([Hebrews 10:23](#))

TAKE IT FURTHER!

SHARE: Often God uses what He's teaching you to encourage someone else. Share with a friend or family member, share with your LifeGroup, or share with your Grace Church site on Facebook!