



Week 1: Gratitude in the Wasteland... and in the Promised Land

Icebreaker:

What is your earliest memory? Was it pleasant or unpleasant?

Message Bible Text:

Deuteronomy 8

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does God command us to remember?
2. Can you remember a time when God was faithful in your wilderness?
3. What seasons of prosperity can you recall?
4. What are the dangers of abundance/prosperity?
5. What issues do we have in our society today because of how forgetfulness leads into entitlement?

Supplemental Bible Texts:

Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:4-9; Philippians 4:12

"I used to think that life was hills and valleys—you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore," he says. "Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe it's kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad." – Rick Warren

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you remember a time when you were living in a season of both prosperity/promise and wilderness/peril?
2. Can you look back at a time when God stretched you and tested your capacity? In both wilderness and prosperity?
3. How have we witnessed both tragedy and joy simultaneously in our church family?

Take-Home Thoughts:

- In EVERY experience of life God is developing your character.
- God continually draws us to himself through it all.
- God sets the course of the parallel tracks.

Prayer Requests (use the extra bullets to place your own requests or your small group's requests):

- Give thanks for God walking with us through times of peril and times of blessing.
- Gratitude for answered prayer for timely rains and abundant harvest.
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Memory Verse:

Deuteronomy 8:10 - When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you are a good God and you are sovereign over us. We have the same prayer in the harvest and in the wilderness... that we would remain as faithful to you as you have been to us. Amen.