

ICE BREAK

- Talk about a time when someone you know passed through a desert? How were you affected by the experience?

STUDY

This week we focus on the trials of life's deserts and how we can grow through them. .

What did you hear in this week's sermon that was new about Life Deserts and how we can thrive through them?

- 1. Psalm 22:1-2, 23:1-4 Pain, Isolation, Confusion, Dependence, Awareness, Trust**
 - a. How do you react to Jesus and heroes of the Bible who suffered pain: passed thru deserts?
 - b. How do you understand that God loves us and allows pain, distance, confusion?
 - c. Do we have to pass through the desert to get to and appreciate the garden?
 - d. What did that experience do for David?
- 2. How do we live in the Desert? What are your natural tendencies when you hit a rough time in your life?**
 - a. What Keeps Your Connection with God. **Matthew 4:4** Prayer & Scripture a. How is prayer and scripture like eating food?
 - b. Don't Isolate Yourself. **Ecclesiastes 4:12** a. Have you ever isolated yourself during desert times? Connected? How were those experiences different? b. How have others been instruments of God during those times?
 - c. Trust God's Process. **Proverbs 3:5** a. What does leaning on your own understanding mean? b. How do deserts tend to alter our perspectives? c. What/Who tends to help you broaden yours?
 - d. Let Your Desert Become Your Calling. a. Who is a person who has helped you out of the desert? b. How have dessert experiences helped you relate to and help others? c. Can we really be of help to people if we ourselves

have not struggled through a desert experience?

“The Desert is not Fatal, it's not Final. God is leading you to somewhere new.”

- a. How have you found that to be true?
- b. What would your relationship with God be like without desert experiences?
- c. How would you be different if you never passed through a desert?
- d. Is there a desert you passed through that you are now grateful for?

REFLECT

- Reflect and Discuss “The desert is not empty. God is here. He will sustain you on your journey”.

PRAY

- Pray for each other's deserts and trials.
- Follow up on past prayer requests.
- Pray for God to prepare us in life to minister to others. .