



In the Wilderness

Sunday, December 8, 2019

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Stepping Stones Community Church

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”
Matthew 1:23 NLT

1. When you are lost and alone in the wilderness, God is with you

- Your deepest need becomes a gift when it drives you to depend on God
- Listen to what God is whispering to you
- Just because you can’t see it, doesn’t mean there is no way out of the wilderness

³ *Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there.* ⁴ *Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died.”*

⁵ *Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, “Get up and eat!”* ⁶ *He looked around and there beside his head was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water!*

1 Kings 19:3-6 NLT

2. Mary’s wilderness

- She trusted and listened to God
- God led Mary out of the wilderness to a place of blessing

³⁹ *A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town* ⁴⁰ *where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth.* ⁴¹ *At the sound of Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth’s child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.* ⁴² *Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, “God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed.* ⁴³ *Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me?”* ⁴⁴ *When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy.* ⁴⁵ *You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.”*
Luke 1:39-45 NLT

Next Steps:

- ☐ Invite a friend to “God With Us”
- ☐ Read 1 Kings 19 (Elijah’s wilderness experience)
- ☐ Commit to pray and listen to God when I am lost in the wilderness of life
- ☐ Commit to obey God and follow his leading, trusting in how he is leading me (like Mary)
- ☐ Focus on God’s love and presence in my life
- ☐ _____