



Wandering: The Story, Pt. 6

What if we are stuck not because we have lost the way, but because we fear what is waiting ahead? A two-week trip became a forty-year detour, yet God never left. Through this story we can discover how to face our giants, quit grumbling, and choose a faith that blesses generations.

Bottom Line: God's faithfulness calls us to trust and follow.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a great vacation that you planned, that you were excited about, but that had some challenges, some things that didn't go as planned. How did you work through those disappointments? What was the outcome?
2. What tends to come out in you when life takes a turn that you didn't expect? Give an example.
3. **Read Numbers 11:4-6 & 14:1-4.** Why are we sometimes drawn back to what is familiar, even when it was harmful? How can we guard against this?
4. **Numbers 14:20-23.** God forgave his people, yet they still spent forty years in the wilderness, and he continued to provide for them the entire time. How do forgiveness and consequences fit together? Describe a time when you experienced God's care in a season that grew out of a poor decision.
5. **Read Numbers 21:8-9 & John 3:14-15.** Jesus compared himself to the bronze snake Moses lifted up in the wilderness, where anyone who looked up (put their faith in it) would live. God made the cure as simple as looking up in faith. What does this teach us about how we are made right with God?
6. **Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20.** Our choices shape the lives of the people around us, for better or for worse. What is a way our faithfulness can bless people around us?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?

Where Jesus Shows Up in the Wilderness

#	In the wilderness	Old Testament passage	Where Jesus shows up	The connection
1	The bronze snake lifted on a pole	Numbers 21:8-9	John 3:14-15	Anyone bitten could look at the snake and live. Jesus said it was about him: we have all been bitten by sin, and the cure is to look in faith to the One lifted up on a cross.
2	Manna, and the test of trusting God for bread	Deuteronomy 8:3	Matthew 4:4; John 8:32-33, 35, 48-51	Israel failed the test for forty years. Jesus spent forty days in the desert, trusted where Israel grumbled, and passed the test for us. Moses did not give the bread from heaven; the Father gives the true bread.
3	Water from the rock, and Moses kept out of the land	Numbers 20:8-11	1 Corinthians 10:4 (1-10), John 4:10-14; 7:37-39	Moses provided water from a rock and the people still died; the New Testament says that the rock prefigured Jesus who is the living water from whom people will drink and never die.
4	The rescue from Egypt itself	The exodus story	Jude 5	Jesus saved a people out of Egypt and later destroyed those who did not believe. He was the one doing the saving all along.

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.

