



### Overview

God has a plan for His people, whether we know Him or are still figuring out how we fit into His story. As we journey with Jesus, He will always lead us at some point to the wilderness. Our time in the wilderness is one of refinement and discovery that we go through to become who God created us to be and to prepare us to live on mission with Him.

There are countless examples of the wilderness in scripture. Whether it's jumping back into the Torah and following the story of the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness to the Promised Land, or zeroing in on a more specific story like that of Moses, David, Jonah, Daniel, Paul, or even Jesus Himself, the wilderness is an unavoidable place that God invites us into to change us. Although there are moments that we fail in the wilderness, one thing we see consistently is that God never does. The wilderness allows us to experience God's unfailing and faithful love. So our goal this summer is to help kids/students to not run away from the wilderness but to journey through it, and to discover all that God has for us there. Welcome to the wilderness!

### Key Themes in the Wilderness

1. God reveals Himself to us in the wilderness. As we discover who He is we discover who we are in Him.
2. God exposes our sin in the wilderness. As we encounter God He shows us the places in our lives we still choose to do things our way instead of His.
3. God changes us in the wilderness. Challenge leads to change. The wilderness is hard, but it is a place that God transforms us.
4. God sends us out of the wilderness. We always leave the wilderness on mission.

### **Key Verses for Memory Work**

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalms 25:4-5

For the Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this immense wilderness. The Lord your God has been with you these past forty years, and you have lacked nothing.' Deuteronomy 2:7

Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-4