

THROUGH THE DESERT, Psalm 68:4 May 26, 2019

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1. Describe a time when you felt as though you were going through a desert place spiritually. How did it affect your walk with God? If you are going through it currently, how is it affecting your walk with God now?

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2. God entered the wilderness pursuing His children in the desert places. What does this teach you about the heart of God? Consider Isaiah 43:19 & 58:11.
3. Many people throughout Scripture experienced times in the desert: Moses, Elijah, even Jesus. How does it affect you knowing who has gone before you into the desert?
4. One purpose of desert experiences is to build trust between you and God. Read Deuteronomy 8:1–6. What do these verses teach us about the way God uses desert experiences to build trust?
5. There are three options: We've either been in a desert place recently, we're in one now or we're going to be in one soon. Take time today to pray, either thanking God for taking you through the desert, strengthening you in the midst of it or preparing you to grow the next time you enter it.
6. Often, when we are in the midst of the desert, we cry out, "God, where are you?" After hearing the message and reading Psalm 68:4 & Deuteronomy 8:1–10, how would you answer this question?
7. When you've been in desert places in the past, what has kept you from connecting with God? How does it change your perception of the desert to know that God sent you there to grow and He is pursuing you in the midst of it?
8. Consider your relationship to God and your understanding of your own life. What kinds of things can you learn in times of desert and lack that are harder to learn in times of plenty?
9. When you are going through the desert, what kinds of worship songs do you gravitate toward? If you would like recommendations, consider "When the Tears Fall" or "Cry Out to Jesus."

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10. Think of those in your life who don't know Jesus. Each of these people also goes through desert experiences. How can you come alongside them during these experiences? How can we give them hope in the midst of hard times?
11. We live in a land of abundance in America, yet there are still many who lack basic necessities. Even when someone possesses every physical necessity, many are empty spiritually. In both situations, how can we become agents of life? Read Isaiah 58 for guidance.