**THE TAKEAWAY**

All believers go through time in the “wilderness”, but God is still powerfully at work in those seasons.

**OPENING QUESTION**

When have you experienced extreme hunger or thirst?

**WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT**

Elijah’s job, as a prophet, was to tell people God’s words. His first announcement to the king of Israel was that a severe drought was on its way. Elijah successfully obeyed God and maybe thought his ministry was about to take off! However, God threw a curve ball by instructing Elijah to live alone in the wilderness and eat food that ravens brought him. Elijah obeyed, but probably wondered why God wanted him in solitude rather than proclaiming the Word of God to others. Then God told him to live with a widow and her son. There he served these two people by providing them with food and even healing the son when he became deathly ill. Elijah was faithful to God’s instructions, but again probably wondered why God didn’t put him in a different context that better fit his job description. Little did he know then, that God would soon use him in converting a large crowd of Baal worshipers.

These “wilderness” seasons—times you’re not sure why God has you in a certain place in life—can be difficult and terribly discouraging. Perhaps you are lonely or struggling with obeying God. Maybe you long to be in a different season, one that has more influence for God’s Kingdom. Whatever your time in the “wilderness” looks like, remember God is still working on you and others around you, preparing you for whatever is next in His plan.

**Read 1 Kings 17:1–24.**

**DISCUSS:**

* What did Elijah do that shows that he truly was a man of God?
* Why do you think God had Elijah stay in the wilderness and then with only two people at the beginning of his ministry?
* How would you feel if you were Elijah and there was no end in sight to your wilderness experience?

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| **APPLY IT**  As you think about your “wilderness” experience, what is the biggest challenge for you? Spend five minutes for five days in a row this week praying, asking God to give you strength in this season. | What are you going to do?  When are you going to do it?  Is there someone who can keep you accountable? |

**MEMORY VERSE**

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

**ON YOUR OWN…**

Prayer doesn’t always come easily. Sometimes we need help to know when to pray, how to pray, and what to pray about. Use the Prayer Square this week to practice trusting in God’s timing, relying on his strength, and being content in your current season.

