

God searches for us, wants to be with us to guide us out of the wilderness. This is a promise that is foundational to our faith. Our God created us for relationship and God pursues that relationship with us. Praise God for pursuing us with the most persistent love!

Thursday, June 25

Three tips were offered to help us will move us from merely surviving toward the opportunity to thrive. First is doing the next right thing. The second tip is to develop and use a mantra that you can live by before you need it. A third tip is Surrender, but don't give up.

When we find ourselves in difficult times it is best to break down our problem into manageable parts that we can then prioritize and begin to work on. Mantras or inspirational sayings help us keep a positive attitude and remind us of ideas and truths which we depend upon. Surrendering gives us the perspective to do what we can and to accept what we cannot do.

These tips reflect the wisdom we can demonstrate in allowing God to guide us through our deepest and darkest valleys. Which tip is most helpful to you? Write your thoughts here.

Friday, June 26

The three tips that help us move from surviving to thriving provide the foundation to develop an action plan for finding our way out of wilderness experiences. Think of a problem or challenge you are facing right now. It may not be a "wilderness experience" but how might these tips help you address that problem or challenge? What mantras or inspirational sayings are meaningful to you? Use the space here to think this through and ask God to give you the assurance of his presence – always!

Message Notes – June 21, 2020

*Moving from Surviving to Thriving?**

- I. The prophet Elijah seems to be two different people if you compare his _____ and _____ in chapter 19 with his words and action in chapter 18.
 - A. In chapter 18 of I Kings, Elijah is a _____ prophet of the one true God of Israel who is pitted against 450 prophets of the false god Baal.
 - B. There was no doubt that Elijah's God was the one true and mighty God and Elijah was his _____!
 - C. In Chapter 19 Elijah is a completely _____ character – it's a completely _____ movie!
 1. Jezebel vowed that Elijah would be _____ by the same time tomorrow.
 2. Overnight, Elijah goes from being triumphant to being a _____.
 3. He feels utterly _____ by God.

- II. It is in those times, when disaster strikes and we are experiencing disillusion, disappointment and despair – we need to _____ for God.
 - A. You may have heard the saying, "If you don't feel close to God, guess who _____!"
 - B. Our God is a _____ God and he tells Elijah to stand by the mountain for the Lord will pass by.
 - C. This is a great reminder for us who would expect that the _____ God would be in the great wind, or in the earthquake or in the fire.
 1. It rarely occurs to us to sit back and listen for God in the _____.
 2. Maybe it's because of the _____ of our own wilderness experiences.

* I Kings 19:1-15a and Luke 8:26-39

- III. There are steps we can take towards God and toward the _____ and peace God offers; three tips that I believe will move us from merely surviving toward the opportunity to thrive.
- The first thought we need in a crisis is about doing the next _____ thing.
 - The second tip is to develop and use a _____ that you can live by before you need it.
 - A third tip to help us move from surviving to thriving is _____, but don't give up.
- IV. In a quiet moment that may follow our futile search, we will at last find _____ in the silence or in the void that follows.
- Then we will finally realize that God has been there all the time and would speak a word of _____ to us.
 - "_____", says God. "Be still," says God. "I am with you," says God, and that is all we really need to know.
 - In that moment, we can _____ that we will be all right, and that everything is as it should be.
 - We will not only survive but _____.

Study Guide

This study guide is designed for you to daily, throughout this next week, consider the lessons of today's message and delve further into scripture that will enhance your growth as a Christian.

Monday, June 22

Read I Kings 18:1-11, 20-39. You can read the entire chapter if you have time. Turn to the beginning of chapter 19 of I Kings and review the first 15 verses. The prophet Elijah seems like two different characters: The conquering hero in chapter 18 and a coward in chapter 19! What is the primary reason for the "shift in character?"

What causes us to have confidence in one scenario and respond with fear in another? It is the scenario itself? What helps you to have courage and strength in difficult times? Write your thoughts here and pray that God will guide you in times of difficulty.

Tuesday, June 23

Read I Kings 19:1-15a. As Elijah flees from Jezebel, he leaves his servant at Beer-Sheba and travels another day into the wilderness. There he finds a broom tree to sit under and simply wait to die. Elijah fears for his life, feels abandoned by God and has completely lost his identity as a mighty prophet of the one true God. He "is burned out, bummed out and wants out." He gives up and simply waits to die.

Elijah has retreated to the wilderness where he is not only hiding from Jezebel; he is also hiding from life itself. The wilderness represents his self-proclaimed defeat.

How about you? When do you feel defeated and retreat from life itself? What do you say? What do you do? Where do you go? How do you know you're in the wilderness? Pray that God will give you wisdom to recognize when you are retreating from life – and from God.

Wednesday, June 24

Read once again I Kings 19:1-15a. The greatest part of our faith journey is we have scripture and our community to remind us of the story we embrace and proclaim. This story reminds us that our God is a persistent God who wishes to be with us and pursues us – even deep into the wilderness. Elijah was cared for by angels of the Lord and the Lord himself spoke a word to Elijah and promised to pass by him.