



We all encounter periods in our lives where we end up in the wilderness—asking God why we're there and when we're going to get out. What we need to remember is that God does some of his best work during those times. God can work in your life in the wilderness in a way that he can't when everything is going smoothly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of a time when you were in the wilderness. How did it feel? How did you see God working through your life as a result of it? What did God teach you during that time?
2. When David was in the wilderness for a decade, he spent time learning. Learning how to fight, lead men, and rely on God. When you're in the wilderness, how can asking yourself, "What can I learn from this and how will God use this in my life?" change your perspective?
3. **Read Psalm 63** out loud, which David wrote while he was in the wilderness of Judah. Now read it a second time and let the words sink in. What verse(s) stand out to you the most? Why?
4. Have you ever been tempted to take a shortcut that will bring temporary relief but a lifetime of regret? Read David's story in 1 Samuel 24:1-7a. What can you do when you're tempted to take those shortcuts in the future?

CHALLENGE

If you're currently in the wilderness, pray that you would experience God's love during this time. Spend time meditating on Psalm 142—pour your heart to God like David did. If you aren't in the wilderness, think of a way you could encourage a friend this week that might be there.

COMMIT TO MEMORY

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you. **Psalm 63:1**