



PURSUIT

Pursuit 2022 Part 3—The Wilderness of Pursuit

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

Self-imposed wildernesses are painful and there is not a lot of hope. Yet, as a Christ-follower, the wilderness is actually a place where God speaks to you. When you're in the wilderness, God has your full attention.

His goal for every one of us is for us to represent Jesus well in the earth.

[Luke 4:1]

Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, left the Jordan and was **led by the Spirit** into the wilderness...

[Luke 4:14]

Jesus **returned** to Galilee **in the power of the Spirit**, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Jesus was filled by the Spirit, led by the Spirit, and returned in the power of the Holy Spirit.

There's always preparation for the greatest season of your life.

The wilderness will deal a deathblow to greed; fasting will kill the desire to have more and keep that from having you.

[1 John 2:15-17, NLT]

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only **a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions**. These are not from the Father but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

Everything that either keeps you bound or prevents you from moving forward in life falls under three major categories: the lust of the flesh (craving for physical pleasure), the lust of the eyes (greed and the craving to have more), and the pride of life (self-sufficiency).

Spiritual warfare requires resilience. Spiritual victory occurs over time.

The goal of coming out of a wilderness time of fasting and prayer is preparation for the most effective season of life and ministry.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Read Luke 4 and reflect upon the wilderness experience.
2. Wipe out any other idols or options that might be distracting you from full surrender to Jesus.
3. Stay in the wilderness of pursuit, or revisit it, until you can come back in the power of the Holy Spirit.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. When you hear the term “wilderness,” what comes to mind?
2. How do we get out of self-inflicted wilderness? Who do you need in your sphere of influence to support you and provide healthy perspective?
3. What was the wilderness experience that Jesus went through when he fasted? What does the wilderness represent or produce? What does your wilderness look like as you fast and pray?
4. What has been the outcome of your Pursuit so far? What has God said or done as a result of fasting, prayer, or pressing in?
5. Why do some people get stuck in their Christian journey? How can we recover or get unstuck? Moreover, how can we get full of the Spirit, led by the Spirit, and empowered by the Spirit?
6. Have you heard God’s voice in the wilderness place? Has He completed what He’s started? Why would God choose the wilderness to speak to us?
7. What substitutionary things did Jesus take on for us that we were not able to earn or attain for ourselves?
8. Everything that wants to rob you or distract you (even as a Christ-follower) fall into the categories: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. [1 John 2:15-17] How do we escape these snares?
9. What do you think God is preparing you for? What season lies just ahead, and how can you depend more on God through it?