

# AFTER GOD'S HEART

A STUDY IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

## After God's Heart Part 6—The Wilderness Pastor Tosha Zwanziger 7.18.2021

### 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.

***We are guaranteed to go through the wilderness on this journey we are in. How you go through the wilderness will greatly determine where you go in God.***

### **[1 Samuel 23:14-15, 24-26]**

<sup>14</sup> David stayed in the wilderness in strongholds, in the hill country of the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul searched for him every day, but God did not hand David over to him.

<sup>15</sup> Now David became aware that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the Wilderness of Ziph [in the woods] at Horesh.

<sup>24</sup> So they arose and went to Ziph ahead of Saul. Now David and his men were in the Wilderness of Maon, south of Jeshimon. <sup>25</sup> Then Saul and his men went to search for him. When

David was told **about it**, he went down to the rock and stayed [there] in the Wilderness of Maon. When Saul heard it, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon. <sup>26</sup> Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. And David was hurrying to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were surrounding David and his men to capture them.

**[John 16:33]**

<sup>33</sup> “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world **you will have trouble**. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

**[James 1:2-3, AMP]**

<sup>2</sup> Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials. <sup>3</sup> Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace].

**[Psalm 42:1]**

As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God.

**[Psalm 63:1]**

...My soul thirsts for you; my whole-body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.

**[John 4:13-14]**

Whoever drinks this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water I give them, will never thirst again.

**[1 Samuel 23:27-29]**

<sup>27</sup> But a messenger came to Saul, saying, “Hurry and come, because the Philistines have attacked the land.” <sup>28</sup> So Saul returned from pursuing David and went to meet the Philistines;

therefore, they called that place the Rock of Escape. <sup>29</sup> David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds of Engedi.

***Just like David you can be sustained on the living water that never runs dry. You can hear his voice in the darkest of seasons.***

### **1. Search for Him in the Word.**

***When you walk through seasons that don't make sense, we can feel fearful, forgotten, hopeless, and stuck. If you cannot find your song, borrow some from David until a melody rises up inside of you.***

### **2. Listen for Him in prayer.**

**[Isiah 40:31]**

...but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

**[1 Sam 30:6]**

HE strengthened Himself in the Lord.

### **3. Worship in the cave.**

***Worshipping in the cave is a spiritual picture of us running into the shelter in the shadow of the Almighty.***

***Worship is a weapon: we're declaring the truth of who God is.***

**[Psalm 57:1]**

David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.  
Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me,

For my soul takes refuge in You;  
And in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge  
Until destruction passes by.

***There is a song, a sound, inside of you that shifts your heart.***

***In the middle of your wilderness, God is standing right beside you, and He is reminding you that He has a plan for your life. He wants to pour living water on your life, so worship in that cave.***

***Remember who your God is. Remember He is right beside you.***

#### **FOR MONDAY—**

1. Determine to be with God. Regardless of your circumstances, take time to run into the shadow of the Almighty.
2. Turn to the Psalms, remind God about His promises, and praise before for your breakthrough.

#### **TALK IT THROUGH**

1. What comes to mind when you hear the term “wilderness?” What are qualities of the desert naturally, and even spiritually?
2. Why do you think wilderness can look so different for each of us? What are reasons God speaks to us in the wilderness? (Consider that the Hebrew word for “desert” is connected to the word for the “Holy of Holies.”)
3. How does the life of David show us in desert seasons that we have to “find the water?” Which of these do you need to intentionally build more into your practice of pursuing God: Word, prayer, or worship?

4. Why do you think a strategy of the enemy is to silence us in the wilderness? What happens when we can't sing our songs or declare the faithfulness of God?
5. How can we be sustained in a wilderness season of life? How do you strengthen yourself in the Lord during that?
6. Why is the waiting not a passive waiting? How is it more of a pursuit?
7. When has God made a way for you when you couldn't see a clear way through the wilderness? How has God restored broken and weary places in your life?