

Special Message—Refiner’s Fire
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8.18.2019

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon
and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

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.

While the questions are important, remember your group’s goal is not to get through the
questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.
Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

Questions

“Why aren’t God’s promises being fulfilled?”

“Why does it seem I’m going backward?”

“Why does nothing seem to be going right?”

“God, why aren’t You moving in my life?”

Questions

“God, Where Are You?!”

Pathway to Destiny

1. Promise. (glimpse of your destiny)
2. Process. (wilderness)
3. Promotion. (promise fulfilled)

[1 PETER 1:6 | NKJV]

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials.

[1 PETER 1:7 | NLT]

*These trials will show that your faith is **genuine**. It is being **tested as fire tests and purifies gold** — though your faith is far more precious than mere gold.*

[JEREMIAH 15:18 | NKJV]

Why is my pain perpetual...

[GENESIS 37:2 | NLT]

*Joseph **reported to his father** some of the bad things his brothers were doing.*

[GENESIS 37:8 | NLT]

*Joseph's brothers hated him all the more because of **his dreams** and **the way he talked about them**.*

Joseph's Character Before Refining

1. He's a tattletale.
2. He's a bragger.
3. He talked down to his brothers.

[PSALM 105:17-18 | NKJV]

*God sent a man before them — Joseph — who was sold as a slave. They **hurt his feet with fetters, he was laid in irons**.*

[PSALM 105:19 | NKJV]

*Until the time that **his word** came to pass (personal promise fulfilled), the **word of the LORD** tested him.*

[GENESIS 42:9 | NKJV]

*Joseph **remembered** the dreams which he had dreamed about them.*

[PHILIPPIANS 2:12 | NKJV]

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my **presence** only, but now much more in my **absence**, work out your own salvation with **fear** and trembling.*

You can't shorten your refining time, but you can lengthen it.

Malachi's 3 Groups:

1. Believers who complain
2. Believers who fear God
3. Unbelievers

[MALACHI 3:13 | MSG]

*God says, "You (**complainers**) have spoken **hard, rude** words to me. "You ask, 'When did we ever do that?'*

[MALACHI 3:14 | MSG]

*"When you (**complainers**) said, 'It **doesn't pay** to serve God. What do we ever get out of it? When we did what He said...**what difference did it make?**'*

[MALACHI 3:15 | NLT]

*From now on we will call the arrogant (**unbelievers**) blessed. For those who do evil get rich, and those who dare God to punish them **suffer no harm.**'"*

[MALACHI 3:16 | MSG]

*Then those whose lives honored God (**fear God**) got together and talked it over. God saw what they were doing and listened in. A book was opened in God's presence and minutes were taken of the meeting, with the names of the God-fearers written down.*

[MALACHI 3:17 | MSG & NLT]

God says, “They’re mine, all mine. They’ll get *special treatment* when I go into action. I treat them with the same consideration and kindness that parents give the child who honors them.

[MALACHI 3:18 | MSG & NLT]

Once more you will see the difference between the *righteous* and the *wicked*, between those who serve God and those who do not.”

[JOB 23:8-9 | NKJV]

“Look, I go forward, but He is *not there*, and backward, but I *cannot perceive* Him; when *He works* on the left hand, I *cannot behold* Him; when *He turns* to the right hand, I *cannot see* Him...”

[JOB 23:10 | NLT]

But *He knows* where I am going. And when He *tests* me, I will come out as *pure as gold*.

[JOB 23:11-12 | NLT]

For I have *stayed on God’s paths*; I have followed His ways and *not turned aside*. I have not departed from His commands, but have *treasured His words more than daily food*.

[2 CORINTHIANS 4:17 | NKJV]

For our *light affliction*, which is but for *a moment*, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal *weight of glory*...

[2 TIMOTHY 2:21 | NCV]

All who *make themselves clean from evil* will be *used for special purposes*. They will be made holy, useful to the Master, ready to do any good work.

[ECCLESIASTES 3:1 | NKJV]

To everything there is a *season*, a *time* for every *purpose* under heaven.

[1 CHRONICLES 12:32 | NKJV]

*The sons of Issachar who had **understanding of the times**, to know what Israel **ought to do**.*

Are You in a Wilderness Season?

1. Absence of God's Presence.
2. God's Promises Unfulfilled.
3. It Feels Like You are Making No Progress.
4. Trials like Never Before.
5. Unfulfilled Desires.

The Purpose of the Wilderness

1. Preparation (Maturing)
2. Refining (Purification)
3. Testing
4. Humbling
5. Strength Building
6. Revelation
7. Path to Fulfilled Promises

The Wilderness is not

1. Punishment
2. Disapproval
3. Abandonment
4. Shelved
5. Defeat

For Monday—

1. Evaluate your season; ask the Holy Spirit what He is doing in it.
2. Ask for God to draw out pure gold in you.

TALK IT THROUGH

- 1. Have you ever experienced a season where you felt like you were going backwards in life? What eventually changed the direction?**
- 2. Which life factors can shape our character?**
- 3. How can we shift our mindset of questioning God into knowing we have a promise and a promotion?**
- 4. What are some promises from God that you've seen fulfilled? What are those you're still holding onto?**
- 5. John Bevere talked about how gold is made and that you cannot see the impurities, until it is in severe heat...How does this insight apply to your personal trials? How does it encourage us to keep walking in faith? Read 1 Peter 1:6-7**
- 6. Which of the five factors of a wilderness season hit home the most? (1. Absence of God's Presence. 2. God's Promises Unfulfilled. 3. It Feels Like You are Making No Progress. 4. Trials like Never Before. 5. Unfulfilled Desires.)**
- 7. What purpose(s) do you think were behind those seasons? (1. Preparation 2. Refining 3. Testing 4. Humbling 5. Strength building 6. Revelation 7. Path to fulfilled promise)**
- 8. Pray for one another to see God's perfect and complete will accomplished personally.**