

# the **תּוֹרַת דָּוִד** DAVID SAVES KEILAH



# PREPARATION

# IN THE WILDERNESS

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

**LESSON 4**



**FOUNDATION  
FOR INTELLIGENT  
MEDIA & DESIGN**



# LEADER PREPARATION

## Dear Small Group Leader:

We've all experienced difficult moments of hardship, loss, and pain. We've gone through times where we felt stuck, maybe we felt lost, and alone. The question is how do we respond when we face trials?

The Bible usually refers to those moments as 'wilderness' seasons. Geographically, psychologically, and spiritually. The wilderness in the Bible represents a desolate place. A dry and isolated place of harsh conditions and experiences. It's a place that's dangerous. It lacks food and water, and it's where we are tested to our very limit. And too often it's easy to just throw up our hands and simply give up.

However, the wilderness is also a place of preparation. A time where we learn to rely on God instead of ourselves. The tests and trials of the extreme conditions give us the opportunity to become stronger, where we experience renewal and encounters with God. Some of the more wilderness moments in the Bible that come to mind may be the journey of the Israelites in the Desert. Job's experience of substantial loss, Joseph's captivity and treachery. John the Baptist lived in the wilderness to prepare for his ministry, and so did the apostle Paul. Most famously of course was Jesus who went into the wilderness to pray and prepare for his mission right after he was baptized. Looking at our own lives, wilderness seasons are not uncommon. But again, the question is how do we deal with hardships when we feel like throwing the towel? Who do we rely on in our worst moments? How can we find strength when we are weakened by our circumstances?

## Scripture References

- 1 Samuel 23:13-14
- 1 Samuel 18:12
- Psalm 63

## Lesson Objectives

1. Students will learn how to handle trials and hardship.
2. Students will gain assurance of God's calling on their lives and strength to persevere.



## Main Point

We can obey and rely on God even in our most difficult times.

## Requirements

- Bible
- PC or Laptop with Anointed DSK
- Handout

Download DSK



## Opening Prayer

Start the lesson in prayer with the group.

## Discussion

**Ask:** What comes to mind when you think of the wilderness? What does it look like, how does it feel?

**Say:** All of us have experienced hardships and difficult moments. Moments where we were hurt by others, felt isolated and lonely. Maybe you've felt stuck, uncertain about your purpose and allowed the enemy to make you doubt God's love and his calling for you. It's those tough times that can mislead our perspective and it's what the Bible describes as wilderness seasons. It's as much an actual geographical place, as well as it is a desolate and dry place mentally and spiritually.

**Suggestion:** Share a personal example of a wilderness season in your life. Ask your group to share a personal story.

**Ask:** Consider the following questions while they play the game.

**Question 1:** How do you deal with personal hardships? What's your natural response and how do you cope?

**Question 2:** How did David respond to hardship?



## Activity

- Play through David saves Keilah.
- Complete and take notes on chapter objectives:
  - Dialogue
  - Quiz
  - Prayer Beacon
  - Vases

Let's Play DSK



## Game Discussion

**Question 1:** As you were thinking about the questions before playing the game, what stood out to you?

**Question 2:** What did David learn in the wilderness?

**Question 3:** How did David model trust and faith in times of trouble?

**Say:** What we think of tough times, a season in the wilderness, God uses to test us and prepare us. It's where we learn how to trust and rely on God when we cannot control the situation ourselves. When we are depleted of everything else, we can either complain and drown in our negative thoughts or use this opportunity to reflect, and refocus on God. A good question to ask in bad times is, what is God trying to teach me? In hindsight, what you'll notice is that God is at work even in the darkest times and he has a plan for you. And like David, it's up to us to respond with faith and dependence on him. David shows us what obedience and dependence looks like when the tables are turned against us. It's stories like this in the Bible that can help encourage and remind us that God is always at work, and we are never alone.

**Question 4:** Reflect on a time in your life when God used a tough situation to teach you something.

## Scripture Context

David's popularity grew after killing Goliath and the king, Saul, was compelled to place David at the head of his army. Saul saw David as a threat and became very jealous. Saul showed selfishness and started to act like a mad man; killing innocent people and turning on those that were close to him.



"Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed Saul." 1 Samuel 18:12 (NIV) **Vase Scroll** David became hunted and Saul's hatred for David placed his friends and family in danger. The priest that David assisted was killed, and the priest's family was murdered. David heard that the Philistines were fighting against the inhabitants of Keilah and David was instructed by God to rescue them. However, Saul heard of David's exploits and sent his servants to capture David. Once again David inquired of the Lord, and the Lord told him to flee because the men of Keilah would deliver him to Saul.

The Forest of Hereth is a harsh area in the land of Judah. It is situated at the edge of mountains and desert. It is a hard place to live, but David does not let it discourage him and instead relies on his faith in God. Hereth and Heruth (freedom) are similar in ancient Hebrew, and some believe this is symbolic of the freedom from fear and despair David finds in the Forest when being hunted by King Saul. **Information Vase**

David hid from Saul in the wilderness of Judah. The harshness of the wilderness creates hungers and needs that allow David to feel the deeper needs of his soul. What David desires most isn't food and water; he wants more of God's love. **Information Vase**

While he was on the run, it is believed that he wrote Psalm 63 where we can see his response amidst his troubles. The scorching sun of the desert wilderness doesn't dry out David's thirst for God. It causes him to run to God for refuge and refreshment.

## Read Scripture

### 1 SAMUEL 23:7-14

Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah, and he said, "God has delivered him into my hands, for David has imprisoned himself by entering a town with gates and bars." And Saul called up all his forces for battle, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

#### Cutscene

When David learned that Saul was plotting against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod." David said, "Lord, God of Israel, your servant has heard definitely that Saul plans to come to Keilah and destroy the town on account of me. Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me to him? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? Lord, God of Israel, tell your servant."



And the Lord said, "He will."

Again David asked, "Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my men to Saul?"

And the Lord said, "They will." **Dialogue**

So David and his men, about six hundred in number, left Keilah and kept moving from place to place. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he did not go there.

David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands. **Closing/Cut Scene**

### PSALM 63

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me. Those who want to kill me will be destroyed; they will go down to the depths of the earth. They will be given over to the sword and become food for jackals. But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God will glory in him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

## Scripture Discussion

**Question 1:** What is something that stood out to you in these verses?

**Question 2:** What can you learn from David as he's dealing with the hardship of his situation?

**Question 3:** How do you think David felt when the citizens of Keilah were going to give him into Saul's hands after all he had done for them? And why did the people make that decision?

**Question 4:** What is something that you can apply to your own life?

**Question 5:** How can you show your dependence to God daily?





**Say:** As we read the Psalm, you'll see that David always responded with faith and trust, whatever circumstance he might be in. He was seeking after God like a man thirsty in the desert who searches for water. Based on past experiences David knew that God was his palace of protection and refuge. That even through the suffering, God will provide and his will be done. No matter the outcome, he gave God all the glory. He chose gratitude over grumbling, and thanksgiving over complaining. He reminded himself of what is true rather than giving in to any doubts. And he always communicated to God in prayer to receive discernment.

In the New Testament we read that Jesus chose to go in the wilderness to prepare himself for his ministry. Isolated in the desert without food and water, he focused on God and on his mission. He was tempted by the devil and responded with the truth of God's Word. Jesus must have been exhausted and the devil tried to tempt him at his most vulnerable point. Yet he never doubted, Jesus never gave in. So often in our lives when we go through a tough situation when we feel weak and exhausted, that's when the devil tries to tempt us and make us doubt God's purpose for us. But like in the example of David and Jesus, we need to stand firm and obey God's Word. Whatever you may be going through right now, you are not alone. God is always with you. He promises to never leave you nor forsake you. Hard times will truly teach you more about your relationship with God and about your identity in him. Remember what he has done in your life, and you'll be able to replace the feelings of loss and defeat, with the promises of God and the victory we have in Jesus.

**Reflect:** Give students time to reflect and respond on their own. Talk about any questions they may have and feel free to share relatable stories that reflect the lesson.

## Closing Prayer

End this together by setting the example for prayer and praying over your students.

**IMD Interactive**  
Church Resources:

