

Israel's time in the wilderness is of great importance to Christians because of the way Christ fulfilled so many of the themes and promises throughout the narrative. God's chosen people, the Israelites have been set free from their slavery but are now in the wilderness and in the process of learning what it means to be God's people before His plans come to completion. Does that sound a little familiar? For us, it's often representative of the fact that we were all born as slaves to sin but because of Jesus' great love and sacrifice we are free. We, too, are in our own wilderness as we have access to freedom but await the completion of God's promises and plans.

*New to daily devotionals? Here are a few tips for this week:*

- Talking about the Holy Spirit can feel confusing—sometimes it seems like everyone has their own version of what it means to be in relationship with the Spirit. Be willing to dialogue with others and be open to new ideas but stay grounded in what Scripture says about the Spirit.
- Be authentic in your pursuit of the Spirit—you don't need to manufacture what you *think* the Spirit is like, just be open to receiving whatever God might give you, however normal or special it might seem.
- Above all, pray and ask that God would give you more awareness of the Spirit. He will provide for you.

## Monday, March 25th

Read John 14:15-17

*<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,<sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

What does your relationship with the Holy Spirit look like? Before today, what had you been taught about the Holy Spirit? How have you come to know the Holy Spirit? Do you speak to or receive from the Holy Spirit on a regular basis? Why or why not?

The Holy Spirit is described as a Helper or Advocate—How do you see the Holy Spirit help or advocate for you? What do you think it means to have the Holy Spirit dwell with you?

What might you start, stop or continue in order to become more aware of the Holy Spirit? How might you become more open to the Spirit's truth?

## Tuesday, March 26th

Read John 16:7-15

*<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;<sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.<sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

We often long to know Jesus face-to-face but here, Jesus says it is good for the Spirit to come. How might it be better to live with the Holy Spirit?

The Spirit comes to convict concerning sin, righteousness and judgment. Does this seem like a good thing or a bad thing to you? Why would we need the Spirit in order to be convicted of sin?

What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from this passage? What encourages you? What questions do you have?

## Wednesday, March 27th

Read Acts 1:6-9

*<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

What does this passage tell you about the Holy Spirit's identity and mission? If the Holy Spirit dwells in you, what does that say about your identity and mission?

In what ways are you living out verse 8? How has the Holy Spirit already equipped you? How might you grow in your awareness of the Holy Spirit to live out verse 8?

## Thursday, March 28th

Read Romans 8:26-27

*<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

When have you felt stuck in prayer? What encouragement do these verses offer you? When you don't know what to pray or ask for, how has the Holy Spirit intervened for you? Do you think the Holy Spirit could intervene for you right now?

Do you think the Holy Spirit can meet your needs in a way that honors God (according to His will)? Why or why not? Are there things in your life the Holy Spirit has provided for you that you haven't attributed to the Spirit?

## Friday, March 29th

Read Ephesians 3:16-20

*<sup>14</sup>For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Have you ever felt like you're trying to live life or make changes by your own power and it's just not cutting it? Have you felt depleted in your own strength? What encouragement does this passage give you?

Consider spending time praying this Scripture over your life: *Lord, may you strengthen me with power through your Spirit. May your Spirit dwell in my inner being. Would you help me be rooted and established in love through your Spirit and would that bring me to a deeper understanding and conviction of how wide and long and high and deep your love is. Help me know your Spirit intimately so I may know you more deeply.*



Wandering

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