

# THE WANDER YEARS

## Week 1: Learning Dependence

Deserts are dry, barren, and desolate places. A literal desert can be completely uninhabitable. A figurative desert in life can be even worse. When we find ourselves in a life desert, all we want to do is get out. But what if God is trying to do something in us first? Thankfully, the Bible has many examples of this. Today, we will explore the story of the Israelites as written in the book of Exodus.

## Discussion Questions

1. What is your favorite dessert or indulgence through this quarantine?
2. While deserts are a physical reality, there are metaphorical deserts we experience too. Some are shared desert experiences and some are individual. What are some personal deserts you have experienced in life?
3. Life in the desert can evoke a multitude of thoughts and emotions that can heavily influence our experiences. What are some of the emotions you are currently working through or have dealt with in past deserts?
4. One of the observations from the Israelites' time in the desert is God's faithfulness in providing for them. In what ways do you see God providing for you during this season?
5. Gavin ended his message by asking the question: "What does God want to teach me in the desert?" How would you answer this question? How can your group help you as you seek to learn what God is teaching you?
6. The Israelites' main goal was to reach the Promised Land. In response, Gavin asked, "What if the Promised Land was something they could have experienced the entire trip? What if it was less of a *place* and more of a *person*?" In what one area could you change your perspective to experience the Promised Land despite your current desert?

## Changing Your Mind

*Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."*

-Exodus 14:13-14