

WILDERNESS

Trusting Jesus in the Wilderness | Teacher: Steve Frissell
Sermon Questions for 10.11.2026

OPENER

We all face places we never planned to go: a closed door, an unanswered prayer, a season when God feels hard to see. We may know God is good, but we can feel let down. The Bible calls this wilderness, a place where the things we have depended on is not available. This message invites us to look to Jesus there...because he is available and there.

READ

Matthew 4:1-11; Genesis 16:7; Exodus 13:17-18; Deuteronomy 8:2-3; Matthew 14:13-21; John 6:31-35

MAIN POINTS

1. God Meets Us in the Wilderness

Hagar ran because of what someone else did to her, and the angel of the Lord found her. She called him El-roi, the God who sees me. Moses fled because of what he had done, and God met him in a burning bush and gave him purpose. Some wildernesses happen to us, some because of us, and some we cannot explain, but God meets people there.

2. The Wilderness Forms Us

God led Israel the long way because, though they were free, they did not yet know how to live free. Manna taught them to receive today what they needed for today and trust God again tomorrow. God used the wilderness to humble them, test them, and teach them that we do not live on bread alone. It was never the destination. It was a place of formation.

3. Jesus Trusts Where We Fail

Like Israel, Jesus came out of Egypt, passed through water, was called God's Son, and was tested in the wilderness. Where Israel doubted God's provision, demanded proof, and bowed to a golden calf, Jesus chose dependence, trusted without a sign, and refused the crown without the cross. He relived Israel's story and wrote a different ending.

4. Jesus Is Our Provision

Jesus came not merely to be our example in the wilderness but our provision in it. He fed a hungry crowd in a deserted place until all were satisfied and said, "I am the bread of life." Then he broke bread and said, "This is my body." The faithful Son gave himself for unfaithful people, rose again, and is with us by his Spirit.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- Hagar, Moses, or Israel: whose wilderness story feels closest to your own, and why?
- Hagar called God "the God who sees me." When have you felt seen by him?
- Which do you drift toward: "God won't provide for me" or "I provided this myself"?
- When has God felt hard to see in your life? What was that season like?
- How does seeing Jesus as your provision, not only your example, change your wilderness?
- What grief, question, or need can you bring to Jesus, and how can we pray for you?

BOTTOM LINE

God's ultimate provision in the wilderness is not something but someone: Jesus.