

# Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Mar 17, 2019

## Remembering the Long Way

Pastor Temple 8:15 & 10:55, Pastor Johnson 9:30

### Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about personal events in the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday's meeting on Settling In or Setting Out?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener Question: What is the worst camping experience you've had? What did you learn from it?

### Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Luke 9:28-36. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors. <sup>2</sup> Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. <sup>3</sup> He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell**

**during these forty years. <sup>5</sup> Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. <sup>6</sup> Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him. <sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; <sup>8</sup> a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; <sup>9</sup> a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. <sup>10</sup> When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Why did it take 40 years to make what should have been a 2 week trip into the promised land from Egypt?

- Dr. John A. Beck has said the 40 year wilderness experience was not to punish the Israelites but to humble, test and teach them. What important lessons did they learn in the wilderness?
- What was Moses worried about that led him to have this talk with God's people before they entered the promised land?
- "Be careful" or "Hear" in verse 1 and "remember" in verse 2 are two frequently occurring phrases or commands in the Old Testament, shamar and zakar respectively. How are these words still important to Christians trying to live in a covenant relationship with God today?
- St. Patrick had a "wilderness" experience when he was stolen as a boy from England and taken as a slave to the pagan land of Ireland. How did God redeem his wilderness experience?
- How do you respond to Pastor Johnson's statement "You don't journey to the wilderness, you journey through the wilderness?" What are some examples of determining factors of whether we stay in it or are delivered out of it?

### **Other Related Scriptures (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read out loud Mark 12:28-34. Here Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:4-5 in what has been known as "The Shema" which means "hear." Why does this seem to be a word commonly placed right before God's commands in the Bible?
- What meaning seems to be implied from the context beyond that of simply "hearing?"
- Aside from distractions from listening, what other human factors can often lead to not hearing and obeying?
- How is Jesus' command to love God with our hearts, minds, souls and strength similar to or different from Moses declaration to hear and obey and remember the Lord?
- How is Jesus' command to love our neighbor related to his covenant in Genesis 12:2-3, "I will make you into a great nation... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you?"

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)**

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional scripture above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- What kind of "wilderness" experiences of life have you had in which you were forced to depend on elements beyond your control?
- How does the practice of remembering your past experiences or "remembering the long way" offer protection from the taking credit where it is not due or being selfish with the blessings of God intended for others (verse 10)?
- What do you believe would be Moses word of direction to us who have experienced prosperity in this land of the United States?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- How does the example of St. Patrick inspire courage in us to share the love of God with others?
- How might his example influence how we relate to others who could be perceived as our enemies or those who have different beliefs about God than ours?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.