

JANUARY 11, 2026

THE WAY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

How God Shapes Us in the Journey

SERMON: Bread for the Journey
(WATCH SERMON) (SERMON NOTES)
SPEAKER: Pastor Jeremy
CORE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 16:2-4, 11-12

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

In this sermon, Pastor Jeremy launched the "Wilderness Training" series by exploring how God uses wilderness seasons to prepare His people for their calling. Drawing from Israel's journey after leaving Egypt, we see how the Israelites struggled with complaining and romanticizing the past when they faced their first obstacle—no food. God responded not with punishment but with provision, giving them manna to teach three essential lessons.

1. Trust God to provide one day at a time,
2. Feed on God's Word every day, and
3. Recognize that Jesus is all you need.

The wilderness isn't punishment—it's the place where God shapes us, strips away our idols, and teaches us that He alone is enough.

SHARE

Think about a time when you felt like you were "in the wilderness"—a season of uncertainty, difficulty, or waiting. Looking back, how did that season shape you or your faith?

READ

Let's read **Exodus 16:2-4, 11-12** together out loud as a group.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What most stood out to you about the sermon?

2. In Exodus 16:2-3, the Israelites grumble against Moses and Aaron, romanticizing their past in Egypt despite their slavery. What does this passage reveal about human nature when facing difficulty? How does their response reflect a failure to remember God's character and past faithfulness?

3. Pastor Jeremy mentioned that “God got the people out of Egypt, but now he needs to get the Egypt out of the people.” What are some “Egypt mindsets” (slave thinking, old patterns) that we might still carry even after God has delivered us? How does God work to transform these patterns in us?

4. The sermon emphasized trusting God to provide “one day at a time” rather than seeking control through stockpiling resources or having everything figured out. What area of your life right now feels uncertain, and what would it look like to trust God for just today’s provision in that area?

5. In John 6:35, Jesus declares, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.” How does this statement connect to the manna God provided in the wilderness? What does it mean theologically that Jesus identifies Himself as the fulfillment of the manna?

6. Pastor Jeremy used the illustration of Crocodile Dundee sleeping on the floor of a fancy hotel because he didn’t know what to do with the comfortable bed—he was simply doing what he was used to. How does this picture help us understand why we sometimes default to old patterns even when God has given us something better? Where might you be “sleeping on the floor” spiritually?

7. The sermon concluded with the challenge that when everything else is stripped away, we discover that Jesus is all we need. What “good things” in your life might be at risk of becoming “ultimate things” (idols)? How can we recognize when we’re looking to something other than Jesus to give us life?

NEXT STEPS:

- **Daily Bread:** Commit to a daily rhythm of reading God’s Word this week. Consider starting a reading plan, devotional, or memorizing a verse that God is speaking to you through.
- **One Day at a Time:** Identify one area of worry or anxiety in your life. Each morning this week, pray specifically for God’s provision and grace for just that day, practicing trust one day at a time.
- **Jesus Is Enough:** Reflect on what you’re currently looking to for life, security, or satisfaction. Journal or pray through this question: “Where am I asking God to give me something when what He really wants to give me is Himself?”

PRAY:

Take time to pray together as a group. Invite members to share specific wilderness seasons they’re walking through right now—whether personal challenges, relational struggles, or areas of uncertainty. Pray for one another, asking God to:

- Teach us to trust Him one day at a time
- Feed us with His Word and help us make it part of our daily rhythm
- Reveal where we’ve made good things into ultimate things
- Help us discover that Jesus is truly all we need
- Prepare Cornerstone Community Church for the mission He’s called us to in this new season

CLOSING:

As we enter this new year and this “Wilderness Training” series together, remember that the wilderness isn’t a place of punishment—it’s a place of preparation. God does His best work in the wilderness. May we walk faithfully with Him, trusting that He is shaping us into the people He’s called us to be, and that He is enough.