

YELLOW BRICK ROAD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How would you describe how connected to God you feel right now? You may find that in some areas of life you feel very connected, while in others you don't. It's OK if this isn't very black and white (that's relationships, right?). But, as you think about how connected you feel, what comes to mind?
- What do you think of when you think of a spiritual desert? Is there any area of your life with God that feels "dry" right now? What are you experiencing in that desert? What are you feeling, thinking, wrestling with?
- While there are all sorts of spiritual deserts, we identified three:
 - **The desert of a threshold (when you are waiting for something new)**
 - **The desert of our own disobedience (when sin is hindering your connection to God)**
 - **The desert of adversity (when things you are facing make it hard to connect with God)**

Share which desert you most relate to in this season. What is happening in your desert? What insight is God giving you to help you?

- For each desert, there was an invitation to look for God in specific ways:
 - **Threshold: What is God doing in you while you wait?**
 - **Disobedience: What might need to be confessed?**
 - **Adversity: What is God providing today to sustain you?**

To the extent you're comfortable, share how you'd answer the question for the desert you're in?

- What is a concrete next step for you as you do this in your desert?

Below are some Psalms that you might find helpful to meditate on this week.

Psalm 22:15, 19

"My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death...But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me."

Psalm 38:3-4, 15

"Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; there is no soundness in my bones because of my sin. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear...Lord, I wait for you; you will answer, Lord my God."

Psalm 42:1-2

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"

Psalm 51:10-12

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."

Psalm 63:1

"You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water."

Psalm 107:8-9

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

Psalm 130:1-5

"Out of the depths I cry out to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope."