



## STUDY GUIDE

June 20, 2021

**Message Series:**

David

**Message Title:**

Lost in the Wilderness

**Teaching Pastor:**

Brian Hughes

### Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Pastor Brian shared about his teenage clogging skills. Share a hidden talent or something you've been a part of in your past that no one really knows about.

### Pray:

Dear Lord, sometimes we feel like we are in a wilderness, lost and afraid. Other times we watch friends and family go through a wilderness and it's painful. You have reminded us, though, that You are our refuge and strength. Please help us to sense Your presence and peace and to trust in You, despite our circumstances. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Get Started:

"I think most everybody here today can find themselves in this story. You might be right in the middle of it, right now - running for your life. Overwhelmed. In your own personal wilderness. Or maybe you've gotten through the worst of it, and now you're on the other side, looking back, seeing the wreckage, and wondering how to move forward. Or maybe the wilderness is still ahead of you - maybe you haven't experienced anything like this....yet. Your circumstances may change - and everybody's circumstances are unique - but what we see David doing, and what WE can choose to do today is keep our focus in the right place. All training requires a focal point, and if you want the best kind of life... The kind that even finds training in the middle of a cave in the middle of the wilderness, your focal point must be God. Because he never wastes an opportunity to do some needed training." -Pastor Brian Hughes

- Which of the following best describes your life and why? **a.** I recently came out of a cave (a season of difficulty), **b.** I am currently in a cave, or **c.** I feel like I'm about to enter a cave. Caves will either develop our character or destroy it.

### Read Psalm 142.

- In what ways has God proven to you that He is your refuge?

### Read 1 Samuel 22:1-2 and 1 Samuel 24:1-7.

- What do these verses tell you about David?

### Watch and Discuss Video:

Pastor Brian shared **1 Samuel 21:1-9 and Mark 2:23-28.**

- How do these linked verses impact your faith?

Pastor Brian said that “religion for religion’s sake is never what God had in mind.” God has a purpose for what he designed. Jesus later blesses what David did when interpreting the events.

- What rules have we established that we need to take a second look at in order to not override the needs of the people in the name of religious ritual? How does this relate to Koinonia, or community, in the church?

### **Reflect and Commit:**

"When you look around and realize that you're in serious trouble or all alone or out of options or all three, it's overwhelming. But when you then realize that there is a power available to you, a presence that can never be removed from you, a support that is underneath of you, inside of you - when you realize that truth in the midst of your despair - that's the training you needed, even though you weren't seeking it. The pathway to it is almost unspeakably painful, but the benefit of it is unshakably holy. I know what that's like. When you get to the spot where your cry to heaven is so real and God's voice becomes so clear. And you say, I hope I never have to go through that again, but I wouldn't trade the experience for anything." -Pastor Brian Hughes

### **Read Psalm 57.**

- What words and concepts are repeated and emphasized, pointing to the meaning of the Psalm?

### **Read John 16:33 & 1 John 5:4.**

- Some Christians assume that they should be immune to hardship and suffering. How can these verses help you to have a different perspective? How have hardships been beneficial to your life?

### **Pray:**

Dear Lord, help us to not rely on our own strength. We cry out as David has, “O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes refuge.” Help us to surrender to Your will, to see hardships as beneficial. Our training is important and necessary, so that we can learn to live the fullest lives possible through Jesus Christ and it's in His name we pray. Amen.

"David learned to do all of these things - was trained to do them - in the wilderness. While running for his life. Ironically, that's sort of where he found it. 'David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands.'(1 Sam 23:14, NIV)" -Pastor Brian Hughes