



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: Exodus 13

Title: "The Way of The Wilderness"

Author

Bro Kok Lin

Summary of Chapter

Exodus 13 followed God's ten plagues' deliverance of Israel and a promised land for them. However, the journey there would be a long journey through the wilderness, albeit guided by His presence of the pillar of cloud and of fire.

Key Verse(s) NLT

How does it speak to me?

17 When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."

18 So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle."

Upon leaving Egypt, God led Israel to take a longer route to avoid war and run back to Egypt. However, this route was a wilderness with other challenges.

Similarly, I know there is a promised land awaiting me. However, the journey towards that might be longer and at times be through the wilderness. But God knows the best path for me even if its longer or least efficient. Most importantly, He assures me of His guidance and presence throughout.

This is seen in my recent COVID experience. The COVID situation had personally impacted and disrupted my life in many ways. I have to learn to cope with health safety, a new model of working from home, and weekend activities have totally changed; socialising with people have very often been restricted to online. It has indeed been disruptive especially the work from home which had been challenging as it blurred my work and home boundaries in both space and time. I felt like I'm going through a wilderness of not knowing when this will end and what lies ahead.

As such, there are times I wished that this pandemic journey would pass or be shortened and I can go back to normal life. However, throughout this situation, I have sensed that He is always there with me. Like a pillar of cloud and fire, He has guided me in each step to face these challenges. And praise God, recently, I have sensed a greater ability to continue to navigate the issues of life amidst this pandemic. And I am now able to work from home well.

Our journey of life might not always be the shortest or easiest and could even be through the wilderness, yet we can be most assured when we let God direct and lead us.

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:

What are some of the challenges that you are now facing? In looking ahead at your future, what are areas you are struggling with? How can coming before God to ask for His guidance and presence help you navigate through them?

Youth:

What are some of the challenges you are facing in your home-based learning? For those graduating, what are your worries of your future and how do the promises of God help you?

Child:

What are some of the things you find difficult due to the COVID situation? Ask God to help you overcome them today.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:

Dear God, we ask for Your presence and guidance. This is especially during this COVID situation which can be a wilderness experience for us. Like the pillars of cloud and fire, may You shine your warmth of hope and direction in our lives. We know You know us and will not forsake us. Thus, we approach this wilderness with that confidence that You are with us through it all.

Thanksgiving Prayer:

I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)

Intercessory Prayer:

I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer:

I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.