

- b. Be exalted, O Lord, above the heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the earth (Ps 57 and 1 Sam 22:1-2)

- c. Thy lovingkindness is better than life
My lips shall praise Thee, thus will I bless Thee
I will lift up my hands unto Thy name (Ps 63 and 1 Sam 23:7-29)

Application

3. Describe a wilderness time in your life. Try to get back into the doubts, fears and emotions of that time.
4. Did you thrive, or merely survive? Who or what tended to lift you up (if you thrived) or pull you down (if you just survived)?

NOVEMBER 5, 2017
JIM LARSON

THRIVING, NOT JUST SURVIVING
TOPICS: THRIVING PROTECTION, COMMITMENT

Thriving for the Long Haul Joshua 14:6-15; Selected Scriptures

Commitment is an act; not a word.

Jean-Paul Sartre

Thriving in the wilderness (Numbers 13:26 – 14:9)

10 spies saw big giants and a small God.

2 spies saw a big God and small giants.

What thriving meant for Caleb in the wilderness

He trusted God even through a 40-year delay.

He didn't whine or get bitter.

He suffered hardship with the rest who faltered in faith even though he didn't falter.

He didn't take shortcuts.

Thriving in the conquest (Joshua 14:6-11)

He crossed with them; not before.

He identified with a new generation.

He delayed personal blessing for the good of others, trusting God for his safety.

Thriving in the God's promises (Joshua 14:12-15)

Caleb sought giants on the mountain; not vineyards on the plains.

His blessing was in greater faith and challenge; not relaxing in old memories.

Small Group Homework - Week of November 5, 2017

Getting to Know You

1. Tell us in 2-3 sentences about a major “wow moment” (a memorable special event or decision) that affected you in your Christian life.

Into the Bible

2. We are going to look at the life of David, another man who knew how to thrive in the wilderness. Driven by jealousy, Saul tried to kill David multiple times, and David was forced to flee to the wilderness. Yet even while fleeing for his life, David had enough trust in God to praise Him in psalms that he wrote while he was on the run. We will look at three of these psalms that lift God up with the highest praise, yet were written by David during this wilderness period in his life. Each inspired a contemporary song writer to write a song that captures David's vision of God. For each song, look at the psalm itself and at the historical situation it came out of. Write down your thoughts about: what David said about his enemies, what those enemies threatened David with, and what David said about the Lord in response,

a. I will bless the Lord at all times

His praise shall continually be in my mouth (Ps 34 and 1 Sam 21:10-15)

Note: Abimelek is a title, Acish is the king's personal name.