

**Walking With God In The Desert**  
Video Series “That The World May Know”  
Summer, 2022

**Syllabus**

This summer we begin a more devotionally-focused study. We will be using Ray Vander Laan’s *Focus on the Family* video series entitled, “That The World May Know” as the starting point for our study and conversation. This particular segment is “Walking With God In The Desert.” The video is the starting point; but we will be going our own way in the session that follows each video because it is important we understand faith as more than simply head-knowledge. Practical application and reflection on our own lives will be a primary element of our time together.

This is first and foremost a devotional series. The life of discipleship often includes periods of time in the desert – times when we are stripped bare of the things to which we cling for security. In order to get the most out of these class times, you will need to prepare yourself to be vulnerable, honest with yourself, and open to God’s work in your life.

In his introduction to this series, Vander Laan wrote,

[T]he exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt to the Promised Land was more than a compassionate act of divine deliverance. It was God’s calling of a people to be his “treasured possession,” “kingdom of priests,” and “holy nation” who would put him on display for the whole world to see (Exodus 19:4-6). God, in effect, took Israel as his bride, and lived among them through the years of discipline and testing in the desert *in order to mold and shape them to be his faithful witnesses to the world.*

...[L]ike the ancient Hebrews, we need deliverance from the bondage of Egypt. We need to be amazed by God’s power at work at the Red Sea. We need to respond to his voice at Mount Sinai. As we wander through the deserts of our lives, we need to set our feet firmly on the foundation of depending on God and living by his every word.

...In the hardship and struggle to survive in the desert, we find a metaphor for surviving the desert experiences of heart and soul – the hard times of emotional, spiritual, physical, and relational pain that all of us face no matter where we live. We realize that life moves from one desert experience to another. ...We may be weary and thirst and find little or no refreshment. And yet, God is with us. communicated.<sup>1</sup>

In these seven weeks of summer, we will look at life in the desert and our walk with God from different angles. Each one challenges us to consider who he is, who we are, and how we understand our role in God’s grand plan of redemption and reconciliation.

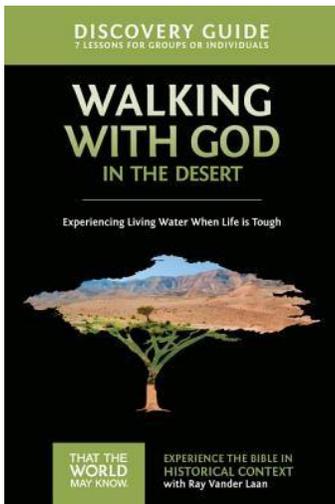
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<sup>1</sup> Ray Vander Laan, *Walking With God Through The Desert*, That The World May Know, Volume 12, (Zondervan Publishing: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2010) p. 7-8.

Summer, 2022

**Walking With God  
In The Desert**

<b>Lesson #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.	July 13, 2022	Join The Journey
2.	July 20, 2022	It's Hot Here and There's No Way Out
3.	July 27, 2022	Help Is Here
4.	August 3, 2022	When Your Heart Cries Out
5.	August 10, 2022	They Were Not Wandering
6.	August 17, 2022	Ears To Hear
7.	August 24, 2022	There's Hope In The Desert



We will be providing the one-page handouts that have been popular in previous studies. We will be using the handouts to guide our discussion. There is a companion book for the video series, a Discovery Guide. If you are interested in preparing ahead and digging much deeper into each topic, you may want to consider it. If your primary goal is to come to class and enjoy the study and fellowship, the book is not necessary. You do not need the book to be participate in the class study.

The Discovery Guide is available from a number of on-line distributors for approximately \$14.

**Expectations**

As with the previous sessions, there is no test or final. Attendance is not mandatory. Participation is up to you. You can either engage for the entire study or pick-and-choose the specific topics that interest you.

That said, there are a couple of things to consider. First, as with any study or endeavor, you will only get out what you put into it. If you come sporadically, you will only get bits and pieces. If you do not participate, you forego the opportunity to hear your own voice engaging with God's revealed story.

Second, working through this material has become a project of the class. We are doing this together. If you do not participate, the rest of the group loses the value of your input and experience. We are weaker without you.