

# NOTHING IS WASTED

## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK ONE

Our current message series is called Nothing is Wasted. We will see how God has established patterns of using our trials and tears to bring about God's purposes. God turned Moses from a self-doubting stammerer into a leader of God's people, bringing them out of slavery, through the wilderness and towards the promised land. We've seen a lot of wilderness this year. Join us each week in worship and with this study to see God's redemptive promises come true. If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group go to [www.prov.church/signup](http://www.prov.church/signup) and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this prayer together:

*God who leads with a cloud by day and flames at night, guide us in our times of wilderness wandering. Show up today in a burning bush or through a still, small voice. Please make beauty out of the ashes we are walking through right now. Amen.*

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: EXODUS 3.1-5

*Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."*

*<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"*

*And Moses said, "Here I am."*

*<sup>5</sup> "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."*

- Moses is a central character of our faith. His story is full of accounts where God saved him (literally!). As a baby he was saved from a murderous pharaoh. Here, as an adult fugitive, God

meets him in a place of wilderness. Do you know of other times God transformed the wilderness for his people? Has God surprised you by speaking to you when you thought God was far away?

- *Pray for eyes to see burning bushes so you will know that God is with you in the wilderness.*

#### TUESDAY: ACTS 7.20-22

<sup>20</sup> *“At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for by his family. <sup>21</sup> When he was placed outside, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. <sup>22</sup> Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.*

- These words are from Stephen when he was about to become the first Christian martyr. These words about Moses are a part of his testimony (Acts 7). They contrast with Moses’ words in Exodus 4.10 “I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.” Stephen’s words reveal the transformation of Moses that began at the burning bush. Have you had surprising signs of God’s presence?
- *Pray that you would have strength to testify to the story of God’s salvation.*

#### WEDNESDAY: LAMENTATIONS 3.19

*I remember my affliction and my wandering,  
the bitterness and the gall.*

<sup>20</sup> *I will remember them,  
and my soul is downcast within me.*

<sup>21</sup> *Yet this I call to mind  
and therefore I have hope:  
Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.*

<sup>23</sup> *They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.*

<sup>24</sup> *I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him.”*

- The prophet Jeremiah (who wrote these words) was known as the weeping prophet. He knew about wilderness/wasteland experiences, and yet he had come to trust in God. Have you had a sense of God’s compassion or mercies being renewed during this season? Even in the wilderness God is pointing us to the promised land through His great faithfulness.
- *Pray that you would wake up to God’s compassion every morning.*

#### THURSDAY: ISAIAH 61.3

*He has sent me...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning...*

- God is with us, speaks to us, and transforms us while we are down and out. God comes to us when we are in trouble. Ashes have historically been a sign of grief and loss. Where have you seen the ashes of grief and loss? What would the transformation of ashes look like in these situations?
- *Pray for God to give you and those who are mourning a crown of beauty and life.*

#### FRIDAY: 1 PETER 1.6-7

*In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which*

*perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

- It is not our suffering that results in glory and honor for Jesus, but our faithfulness in the midst of it. The trials we face are proving ground for God to bring deliverance and strengthen our faith which is worth more than gold. How have your own struggles created room for Jesus to be revealed to you or to others?
- *Pray that you would see Jesus being revealed even through the trials you are facing.*

SATURDAY: 1 PETER 1.8-9

*Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now; you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

- When we are faithful in times of suffering, we experience the salvation that leads to a life of joy. The story of redemption runs throughout the scripture. As our faith in Christ grows, we will realize more and more what it means to be rescued by him. Have you had a season or moment when you were filled with inexpressible and glorious joy? How do you describe that feeling?
  - *Pray for a faith in Christ, regardless of your circumstances, that leads to the joy of salvation.*
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## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Pastor Jacob pointed out that Moses found holy ground on Mt. Horeb while he was in the wilderness. God told Moses that he would one day return to that same place to worship God. When has a place that felt like wilderness turned into holy ground for you?
- Moses' encounter with God led him to ask, "Who am I?" and "Who do I say that you are" Our identity comes from God. Evaluate the statement: We learn about ourselves when we learn about God. Do you believe that to be true?