

Week One
Waking Up in the Wilderness
(Matthew 4:1, Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1)

Memory Verse:

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. –James 1:2-3 NIV

Surrender Step #1: It's okay to not be okay, but God loves me too much to leave me this way. (reference)

BIG IDEA: A test is a time of trouble that can tear me apart OR teach me to trust God in a new way.

My body was stretched out on my cold kitchen floor. My cheek pressed against the slightly sticky vinyl tile floor as tears rolled down and puddled around my chin. Moments before, I'd slid down the front of my kitchen cabinets as the weight of what I could no longer carry on my forced me to the ground.

Moments before I was on the phone with the insurance company begging them to cover the cost of a screening test that one of my children needed, but I couldn't afford. A company representative listened to my pleas, but ended the call after politely, but firmly stating that there was no coverage for the test.

I hung up the phone and realized that I had no other levers to pull, moves to make or chips to play in trying to meet an important need in my child's life. For several years, I'd had anxieties and concerns over her development and as a good mama, I wanted to find answers and someone to help me fix the problem.

In addition to the fears over my daughter's development issues, my car kept breaking down, our family budget was strained and an unavoidable home repair pushed my nerves and bank account to edge of falling completely apart. It seemed problems were attacking me from all side in life. Just a few years before, life seemed so good. Before, my life felt like I'd won one of those golden tickets from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. I enjoyed years of career success, financial reward, and flourishing relationships. But then, like a series of fast-falling dominos, one problem after another started showing up. Then, all of the things that made my life feel happy and content seemed to disappear. I started looking up ask demanding, "God, I want my old life back!"

**PILOT TEAM
FEEDBACK:**
You can print this
content or fill it out in MS
Word.

Note: Whenever you see the word "MARGIN", in the content that follows will be placed in the margin on the page.

1. HOW LONG DID IT
TAKE YOU TO
COMPLETE THIS
WEEK'S CONTENT:
_____ min/hrs

2. Underline the sentences or phrases that inspired or connected with you. During our online gatherings, you will be asked to share one of these with the other ladies in the group.

3. Draw circle around questions, statements or other content that provided an "ah-ha" moment, helped you understand the content or challenged you in a fresh new way.

4. Draw an X by content that was not useful or helpful to you.

5. Insert a "?" where you read content that doesn't make sense or is confusing to you.