

Into the Wilderness: Learning to Walk with God

Dear brothers and sisters of RCAC,

As we enter the year 2026, our preaching series returns to the Old Testament book of **Numbers**. Together, we will step **into the wilderness**, learning what it means to walk with God.

For those of us who live in the city, the wilderness is rarely a place we would choose to dwell—except perhaps as a destination for leisure or travel. It represents uncertainty, unease, and moments without clear answers. In the wilderness, familiar landmarks disappear, the rhythms of life are disrupted, and we are forced to confront our limitations and inner fears. Yet Scripture repeatedly shows us that the wilderness is also a place of encounter between God and His people—a place where God shapes His people with love and purpose.

As we begin the sermon series *Into the Wilderness* from the book of Numbers, we will journey alongside the Israelites as they move from Mount Sinai toward the Promised Land. This is not merely a change of location, but a process of spiritual formation. Numbers records the story of a redeemed people learning how to live as God's covenant community—a journey that is far from easy.

The wilderness lies between deliverance and fulfillment. The Israelites had already been freed from slavery in Egypt, yet they were not ready to enter the land God had promised. The wilderness became the place where God trained them to trust Him, obey Him, and depend on Him daily. There, God revealed His holiness, established order among His people, dwelt in their midst, and guided them step by step through the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire.

At the same time, the wilderness exposed the true condition of the human heart. When resources seemed scarce, fear emerged. When expectations were unmet, complaints arose. Under pressure, pride, jealousy, unbelief, and rebellion surfaced one after another. Yet even

in failure, God remained faithful. He disciplined, corrected, and restored His people—not to destroy them, but to bring them to maturity.

These truths speak powerfully to us today. Many of us are walking through our own wilderness seasons: prolonged waiting, loss, illness, uncertainty about work or direction, relational tension, or spiritual dryness. In such moments, we may question whether God is truly present or why progress seems stalled. Like the Israelites, we long to move forward—but often God invites us first to learn how to walk with Him in the present.

The book of Numbers teaches us that the wilderness is not a place where God is absent; rather, it is often evidence of His active work. God uses wilderness seasons to remove misplaced dependencies and to teach us what a life of genuine faith looks like. In the wilderness, God's people learned that daily provision comes from Him, guidance comes from Him, and their identity is rooted in belonging to Him.

Throughout this series, we will study selected passages that highlight several core themes: God's ordering of His people, His call to a holy life, the dangers of grumbling and compromise, the consequences of unbelief, and the power of intercession and obedience. We will also see that even when God's people stumble, He continues to advance His purposes by grace. The wilderness reveals both human weakness and God's faithfulness.

Spiritual maturity is rarely formed in times of comfort; it is often forged through trials. Walking with God in the wilderness teaches us patience in waiting, humility when we are challenged, and obedience when the path ahead is unclear. Maturity grows as we learn to trust God's character, even when we do not understand His timing.

May we, as a congregation, enter this journey with open hearts. Let us not rush through the wilderness, nor look back longingly at what is familiar. Instead, may we learn to recognize God's presence, listen for His voice, and follow Him faithfully—step by step.