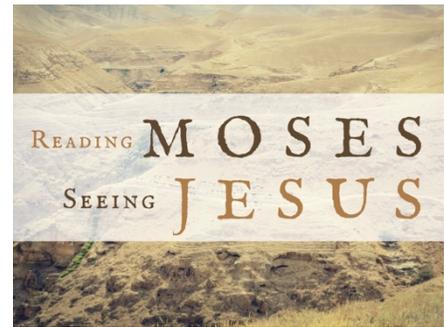




the WELL
CAMPUS MINISTRY @ GVSU
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LAB STUDY GUIDE FALL 2017

Date: 11/12/17

Teacher: Ben

Text: Deut. 8, Matt 4:1-11

Any other Text?: Heb 2:18, 4:15, James 1:2-3

1. **Read the Text Together** Read the Text for this week out loud with your group.

2. **Make Observations** What stands out? What phrases caught your attention?
Any repetition, contrasts, comparisons?

3. **Ask Questions** What is confusing or hard to understand? Any details that might be important?
Ask: who, what, where, when, why, how?

4. Background Information

The number 40 occurs over and over and over again in the Bible. The number 40 is a big deal. In the Bible, 40 generally symbolizes a season of testing in order to bring change. For example, Noah's ark – the entire world was horribly wicked, so God sent rain for 40 days/nights to bring change by starting over. According to Deut 8:2, 3, 16, why were the Israelites in the desert for 40 years? To humble you. To test you. To know what was in your hearts. "To do you good in the end." The desert wanderings turned out to be more than a punishment. 40 years in the desert was actually a time for God to be refining and changing the hearts of his people. God brought his people through the desert for their hearts to be fully exposed of any pride or selfishness. God needed to show his people that he loves them and they can trust him. He needed to shape and mold, and refine them in order to prepare his people for the journey ahead – entering into the Promise Land. Sometimes desert seasons end up being the best seasons.

5. Application Questions

1. What is your favorite season and why?
2. What word would you use to describe the current season of your life? Why?
3. Have you ever been through a challenging, confusing, frustrating, or hurtful "desert season" in your life? What was it like?
4. Why is it difficult to trust God in (let alone celebrate) desert seasons?
5. The second half of Deuteronomy 8 is a warning to God's people that when they get out of their desert season, remember how God led you, cared for you and provided for you, and that none of your blessings are from your own doing. Why do you think God wanted his people to remember this? What are these words asking of us?

6. Have everyone answer....

What is something you learned about Jesus this week by studying the story of Moses?

