



THE STORY *continues...*

Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric of our daily lives.

Chapter 6: Wandering

Listen to *The Story*

*Read **Chapter 6** of *The Story* this week.*

God stands by His people, even when they don't stand by him. But there is trouble ahead. The Hebrews are stuck in what feels like a God-forsaken wilderness. It's no secret they'd rather be in Egypt.

The Israelites were constantly grumbling. They went back and forth between complaining about their circumstances and asking God to help them and rescue them from their struggles. After finally reaching the Promised Land the people refused to step forward in faith and trust that God would lead them. As a result, God had them take a 40 year time out.

During this time, God shaped and formed a man named Joshua into a capable successor to Moses.

Learn *The Story*

Look for ways in which God's story and your story connect this week.

Whether you find yourself living in a wilderness or a promised-land season, God is ever-faithfully providing for all of your needs.

Document His provisions for one day this week. From sunrise to bedtime, what has God provided for you today? Thank God for all that He has given you!

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

God uses us to help provide for the needs of others. In Psalm 23, we remember that God provides for all we need: "You shall not be in want."

Look around your house, your apartment, your room. Is there anything that you have to excess? More shoes, more tools, more money, more toys, more clothes, more food?

Donate some of your abundant blessings to someone in need: IOCP, GoodWill, or someone you personally know who is in need.

Luther's Explanation

After the people of Israel receive God's Law at Sinai, they begin wandering in the wilderness. Even though God stands by his people, they don't stand by him. They are full of complaints—slavery in Egypt (something they are familiar with) looks better than their current situation. Their faith in God continues to waver. Instead, they place their faith in other gods (even nostalgia for the “good old days”). In Martin Luther's Large Catechism, he writes, “What does it mean to have a god? Or, what is God? Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and in which we are to take refuge in all distress. So, to have a God is nothing other than trusting and believing Him with the heart. I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol. If your faith and trust is right then your god is also true. On the other hand, if your trust is false and wrong, then you do not have the true God. For these two belong together, faith and God [Hebrews 11:6]. Now, I say that whatever you set your heart on and put your trust in is truly your god.” (Large Catechism, Vol. 1, p. 3)



PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:

***“Remember...I care for you: I provide your food;
I quench your thirst. Trust me.”***

The EXTRA Mile



Time is the one commodity that we never feel like we have enough. Volunteer some of your time in the community this week. Watch as God gives even greater blessing as you “sacrifice.”