



Made Perfect in Weakness: Roundabout Way

June 9 & 10, 2018 – John Ortberg

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, so we are providing a summary study with additional discussion questions in the Going Deeper section. Please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group.

Follow up from last week: In Psalm 23:4-5 David trusts God in the darkest valley. This past week, how was your trust in God when things did not go as you hoped?

Connect

1. What part of the service this weekend did you struggle with (and why)?
2. When your navigation system/maps application tells you to take a different direction from the way you thought, what do you do? What is your thinking that goes with that decision?

Engage

Read Exodus 3:7-8; 13:17-18

- What was God's purpose in taking the Israelites out of Egypt?
- God chose to take the Israelites on an indirect route toward his good purpose for them. Why?

Apply

1. What is an example from your life where, instead of the direct way, you ended up taking the indirect, winding route? What happened along the way that prepared you better for the result?
2. In which area of your life do you find yourself resisting God's direction, and what is the reason for your resistance?
3. How are you going to allow God to turn your situation into a beneficial experience?

Pray

If anyone in your group is currently experiencing pain from a roundabout way (e.g. loss, hurt, etc)*, pray together for that person(s) and close by reciting together Psalm 23.

*Support is available from our church community for anyone who needs it. Contact your Life Group coach or go to Menlo.Church/care to learn more.

This resource and additional sermon study guides are available at menlo.church.



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Send questions to info@menlo.church

Going Deeper

Connect

1. Consider the following 4 statements about spiritual “deserts.”
 - The desert is where I learn patience.
 - The desert is where God makes me strong.
 - The desert is where I come face to face with my temptation and sin, and I realize that I can hide or I can heal. I can’t do both.
 - The desert is place where I learn to love God for God’s sake, not just for milk and honey.

What is an example of how have one of the insights above has been true in your life?

Learning Opportunity

Read one man’s account of his roundabout journey to full confidence in God - *Devil At My Heels* by Louis Zamperini with David Rensin (including a postscript retrospective by Louis Zamperini)

Serving Opportunity

Menlo’s directory of service opportunities [Menlo.Church/serve](https://menlo.church/serve) may help you find an opportunity to grow spiritually, while helping others.

Personal Spiritual Practice Idea

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”^[NIV] Practice trusting God’s direction by giving him thanks for something, whatever is going on. Once you are in the habit of trusting him with the bumps in the road, observe how sinkholes become an opportunity.

