





- 1 **What would you say has been the best time or season of your life, and what made it so good?** What has been the “worst” time or season and what good, if any came from it?

 *When do you tend to learn the most about God--when things are going well or when things are going poorly? Why do you think that is so?*

 *How are you tempted most often tempted to doubt God's wisdom and goodness when you go through difficult times?*

 *What can help you maintain a right perspective in circumstances (good and bad)? How can you display dependence on God in times of pain and in times of prosperity?*

- 2 **Read Psalm 23 and note how God leads His people not only to green pastures and still waters, but also through valleys where death shadows loom.**

 *If God is willing to lead his people into experiences of hunger and deprivation (like the wilderness mentioned in Deuteronomy 8), what does that tell us about Him?*

 *What does this mean for us as His people? What implications does that have for our relationship with Him?*

- 3 **As the Israelites wandered through the wilderness, God miraculously provided protection, water, and manna from heaven (Deuteronomy 8:15-16).** But, there are times when we don't experience that same kind of extravagant blessing. Why should we continue pursuing God even when his provision is minimal, ordinary, or adequate?

♥ *How can we give thanks for God's provision even when we are living in uncertain times?*

🗨️ *Share some ways God has met your needs in this past year.*

4 **Think through the circumstances of the last 12 months.** What have you been learning about yourself as you've sought to depend on God?

♥ *What are some evidences of grace in your life, and where are some points where you need continued growth? What do you think your life would be like now if God had never taken you through those experiences?*

⚙️ *Think together about how our responses to difficult circumstances reveal what is in our hearts. How have needs in your heart been revealed recently as a result of going through a hard time?*

♥ *Pause to pray about some of the needs in your group.*

5 **Read Deuteronomy 8:3.** What would it look like in your life to "live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord"?

♥ *Which do you find most difficult in your life? listening, remembering or obeying God's word? Why?*

#### **Prayer Points**

- *Ask God to reveal to you any point where pride has become a barrier to his good intentions for your life.*
- *Ask God to deepen your affection for his word and help you memorize it.*
- *Pray that the Lord would help you remember, obey, and rejoice in his word.*
- *Repent for your heart inclinations toward pride, self-effort, forgetfulness, and self-sufficiency.*
- *Thank God for his fatherly training, generous grace, and good commands. Praise the God for being totally dependable.*