

STORIES FROM THE WILDERNESS

Small Group Guide

Week of June 1, 2020
Caregiving with Dave Adams

Informing Scriptures to Guide your conversations:

- Psalm 22
 - Romans 8:28
 - Jeremiah 29: 2-14
 - Matthew 12:31-32
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Pray together: Begin with this prayer of illumination

Nurturing God, you sow seeds of grace and glory in our world for our healing and growth. Now, through your servant Dave and by the power of the Holy Spirit, cultivate in us the fruit of faith so that, wherever we find ourselves, we might know and share the abundant life found in the Lord of the Harvest: Jesus Christ. Amen.

Have questions? Contact Rev. Reed McNitzky at
RMcNitzky@UniversitySATX.org



WATCH TOGETHER

You can find the interview with Dave Adams by clicking on the following link:

• [Vimeo link to Dave Adams' Interview on University's page](#)

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Here are some questions to guide your group's reflection on the interview:

- How do you see the love of God revealed in Jerran and Dave's marriage? What has the current pandemic taught you about the nature of God's love in difficult circumstances? Use the Jeremiah 29 passage to help your reflection.
- Read Psalm 22 together as a group. This Psalm moves from mourning to praise, like Dave's story as a caregiver. As a group, discuss the difficult moments in your own lives, and if/how they led you to a newfound love and trust of God. How does all of this relate to Romans 8:28?
- God uses wilderness times to shape us in ways that help us serve others. For example, Dave discusses how different church members made a large difference in Jerran's journey without knowing their impact. How have the wilderness experiences of your life equipped you to be a servant to others? What passions, skills, or gifts were revealed to you because of those difficult times? Or, to use the language of the Matthew 13 parable, what "mustard seeds" were planted in your life that you think could be used to bless others?

PRAY TOGETHER

Lift up your group's needs and celebrations, and pray for the following:

- Those with terminal illness and who are suffering without a cure.
- Caregivers who are learning how to assist their loved ones in a journey of disease/injury, and who face loneliness and isolation.
- Wisdom for our church, that we may learn how to be aware of, present to, and supportive of those in our community who are looking for ways to belong.
- End with the Lord's Prayer

Resources to Continue Reflection and Growth:

- Interested in forming and being a part of an Alzheimer's caregivers support group? [Contact Pastor Holly.](#)