

STORIES FROM THE WILDERNESS

Traces of Grace Discussion Guide

Week of August 2, 2020

The Journey of Salvation

Pray together: Begin with this prayer of illumination

"God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power; crown your ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower. May your Spirit move in us to heal, to pardon, to strengthen us for your work in our world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the Kingdom of Heaven in person and shows us the way to go, Amen."

Interested in Participating in a Small Group around
the *Stories from the Wilderness* Curriculum?

Contact Pastor Reed at
RMcNitzky@UniversitySATX.org



UNIVERSITY
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WATCH TOGETHER



You can find the hour-long Facebook conversation at the following link:

[Link to University's Vimeo page here](#)

DISCUSS TOGETHER



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

- Think about the ways God manifested presence in your life before you were even aware of God or God's love for you. Who are some people, or what are some moments, where you can look back and now see the grace of God at work?
- What was the moment when you realized your total need for God? What brought you to that realization? How did life become different for you once you arrived at that realization?
- How has your faith changed since that first moment of surrender or trust? How is your understanding of God different? What are some notable events that have happened in your discipleship since you began this journey?
- What are some ways you continue interacting with the grace of God? Are there certain rhythms, practices, prayers, or exercises that allow God to shape and direct your life?

PRAY TOGETHER



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

- For those who have offered their stories as a testimony to God's grace, and for those who will be part of future conversations: that God might speak powerfully to us through their lives and that they might shape our church into a courageous place of self-giving love.
- For assurance of God's eternal love, and a heart that responds to this grace with action rooted in holiness.
- For the Church universal, that it might be a haven of recovery for all wounded souls, and a harbor of replenishment for effective Christian witness.

End with the Lord's Prayer



Want to learn more about our United Methodist belief in the Way of Salvation?

Check out this Wesley Bros cartoon and read the corresponding article by Charlie Baber [here](#), which describes the journey of salvation as a road trip.