



## OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

Briefly describe a trip or journey in your life that seemed like it was especially long or most difficult.

## DIG

After centuries of being slaves and decades of challenging travel, the people of Israel approached the land that would become their own. Their promise was near, but not yet a reality. Great troubles were now past, but more challenges were ahead. Then Moses, who led them from Egyptian slavery, gives a reminder about lessons from their time of travel.

Read DEUTERONOMY 8:1

*"1 Be careful to obey all the commands I am giving you today. Then you will live and multiply, and you will enter and occupy the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors. (NLT)*

Based on this passage, what are some practical results of keeping God's commands?

What makes it hard to keep commandments or rules over a long period of time?

Read DEUTERONOMY 8:2-5

*2 Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands. 3 Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. 4 For all these forty years your clothes didn't wear out, and your feet didn't blister or swell. 5 Think about it: Just as a parent disciplines a child, the Lord your God disciplines you for your own good. (NLT)*

Who caused the people to wander in the wilderness and to go hungry?

Why do parents discipline their children?

How does it make you feel to think that God disciplines his people like a parent?

What all were these people expected to learn from their difficult and long journey?

What have you been taught through difficult journeys or phases in your own life?

## APPLY

Share with the group some little things for which you have been thankful during challenging times in your past.

How does thankfully remembering such little things help you move forward more confidently in the future?

-GLR

## Leaders

### Series

This discussion guide is based on a sermon in a series called "The Church from House to House."

### Big Idea

This lesson encourages participants to move forward in life confidently because of what God has taught us in the past.

### Prayer

Pray for every person in your group to recognize and celebrate God's presence in his or her life.

### Group Leadership

Variety from the normal pace or rhythm can renew energy in a group. Intentionally look for ways to include variety, such as...

- reverse the typical order of activities during the group meeting;
- involve different people to lead the discussion;
- select one encounter to be focused completely on prayer;
- change the meeting time or location for a special event;
- find a special service project to do as a group;
- set a creative thinking and planning time to explore suggestions.