



# Wilderness

**The Wilderness is  
somewhere we've been before...**

## **POURING OF SAND**

Sand accumulates slowly over time, wearing away from rock and stone, crystallizing tiny organisms and minerals into hard matter. In the deep crust of the earth, grains of sand compress into stone. Sand reminds us that the wilderness has history, for as long as there has been creation, there has been wilderness. Friends, the wilderness is somewhere we've been before.

**Pick up a handful of sand and let it slowly fall through your fingers.**

**What does the wilderness look and feel like to you?**

**What types of wilderness—both literal or metaphorical—have you encountered in your life?**

*When you are ready; take a small ziplock bag and fill it with sand to take with you.*



Wilderness

The Wilderness is a place of  
mystery & the unknown...

## WRITING PRAYERS ON STONES

In the bible, the wilderness was often like a maze for the lost. Jacob wrestled with a mysterious angel through the night in the wilderness. The Israelites escaped Egypt to the wilderness and then wandered there for forty years. Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman alone by a well in the midday heat. But often, the wilderness was also a place to encounter the divine.

When Jacob dreamt of a ladder leading to heaven, he placed a stone to mark the spot. He called the holy place “Beth-el” —God’s house. Even when we are lost or walking in the dark, stones remind us that God is transforming our terrain into holy ground.

**Who do you know that is wandering through the wilderness—  
through the wilderness of uncertainty, grief, sickness, or hardship.**

**Is it you? Your family? Someone else?**

**Take a few stones and, with a marker, write a brief prayer, or a name for those in the wilderness. Or perhaps you’d like to write to a word or phrase of hope for your own wilderness journey this Lent.**

*When you finish writing your prayers—on one or more stones—take them with you.*



**The Wilderness is  
a place of beginnings...**

*Wilderness*

## **GATHERING OF TREE BRANCHES**

In the winter, many trees let go of their leaves. Some trees need to be pruned in order to bear fruit. Trees remind us that we have to let go in order to start anew. And every spring, trees show us what it looks like to become new. In the wilderness, God is cheering for you.

Friends, the wilderness is a place to begin again.

**Pick up a branch and hold it in your hand. Examine it. Look at its buds; the pruned ends on the branches.**

**Identify something in your life that is beginning or just get started.**

**What does it feel like to begin again?**

*When you are finished, gather 2 or 3 branches to take with you.*



**The Wilderness is  
a place of new life—resilient life...**

*Wilderness*

## ADDING MOSS

Moss has no roots and requires no soil. Instead, it grows on the face of stone. Moss is known for its hardiness—it can sustain drought, too much rain, and cold temperatures. Some mosses can grow again after being frozen for over a thousand years. Moss reminds us that the wilderness is a place of new life; of resilient life.

**Gather some of the moss in your hand.**

**Where have you seen God plant a garden in the wilderness?**

**What are you most hopeful for this Lenten season?**

*When you are ready, gather some moss and place it in a ziplock bag to take with you.*