

## Turn away from your fears...

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### Introduction

This week we're beginning our new fall series, "In the Wilderness." Joining the Israelites on their journey in the wilderness, we'll discover the hope, strength, and resilience that we have through God. As we find ourselves in the Covid-19 wilderness, may these stories encourage us as we face the challenges brought on by this pandemic.

### Discussion Questions

1. What insights caught your attention in this week's sermon?
2. What was one of your fears as a child? How did you overcome it? Who helped you?
3. The Covid-19 pandemic has created anxiety and fear in our society. Name some examples. Which ones have been true for you?
4. The Israelites are at a decision point. They can go back to their slavery, or they can choose to trust God. It's not an easy decision. What makes it difficult?
5. Why might returning to their previous slavery seem preferable? What is its lure? Have there been unhealthy things that you've returned to because they're familiar?
6. Through Moses, God calls the Israelites into a new path. How will they turn away from their old slavery life? What must they do?
7. How have you turned away from your fears and anxieties? How did it feel when you made the choice to choose faith in God over fear?
8. Are there anxieties or fears that are still chasing you during this pandemic? How may trust in God and the support of your church family help you lessen its grip?
9. How may we pray for you this week?

### Prayer (#602 United Methodist Hymnal)

Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever and ever. Amen.

### Travel Pack (a few items to help you this week)

**Head (memory verse):** "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today." —Exodus 14:13

**Hands (acts of faith):** Live out your trust in God by doing at least one random act of kindness

**Heart (prayer):** Thank God for a fear that's been overcome during this pandemic.