

---

# TALK IT OVER

---

## Finding God in the Desert of the Soul

February 20- 21, 2021

Buddy Owens

Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

### THREE KINDS OF SOUL DESERTS:

- WHEN THE HEAT TURNS UP
- WHEN YOUR HEART TURNS COLD
- WHEN YOU'RE GIVING OUT MORE THAN YOU'RE TAKING IN

#### Talk It Over

*"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me." Psalm 63:1-8 (NIV)*

#### Question 1

Have you been through one of these deserts recently and did your relationship with God change?

- A DESERT IS GOD'S WAY OF GETTING YOUR ATTENTION
- YOUR VALLEY IS NOT A DEAD END, IT'S A DOORWAY

#### Talk It Over

*"Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. In that day," declares the Lord, "you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master.' I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked . . . In that day I will respond," declares the Lord—"I will respond to the skies, and they will respond to the earth; and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine and oil, and they will respond to [my people]." Hosea 2:14-23 (NIV)*

## Question 2

Share a time when God closed one door, opened another, and you finally understood why the first door was shut.

### WHAT TO DO WHILE YOU'RE WAITING IN THE DESERT:

#### 1. PREPARE TO MEET GOD THERE

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT IT'S BECAUSE HE IS LISTENING

#### Talk It Over

*"A voice of one calling: 'In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'" Isaiah 40:3-5 (NIV)*

## Question 3

When God seems silent it's because he is listening and waiting for you. What are ways that we can prepare to meet with God in these quiet moments?

#### 2. START PLANTING SEEDS NOW

#### Talk It Over

*"The seed is the word of God . . . The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." Luke 8:11, 15 (NIV)*

## Question 4

To restore fruitfulness in my life, how can I plant seeds for spiritual growth?

#### 3. ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY DISTRACTIONS

#### Talk It Over

*"Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain." Isaiah 40:4 (NIV)*

## Question 5

What are examples of distractions in our lives that prevent us from giving God our full attention?

#### 4. SEARCH YOUR HEART FOR IDOLS

#### Talk It Over

*"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs." Jonah 2:8 (NIV)*

### Question 6

Idols are anything that you put between yourself and God and are unwilling to stop doing. What are examples of idols in our lives?

### 5. SING TO THE LORD

#### Talk It Over

*"With singing lips my mouth will praise you . . . I sing in the shadow of your wings."* Psalm 63:5,7  
(NIV)

### Question 7

God loves all kinds of music and singing keeps us in an attitude of prayer. You can worship in any genre you enjoy such as hymns, modern Christian worship, rap, country or reggae. If you are uncomfortable singing, simply speak the lyrics. Share ways we can sing to the Lord in our daily lives.

#### Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*