

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Lifegroup Study - Wild and Free – the call of the wild

We are doing a series called WILD and Free. Freedom is a hallmark of the Kingdom of God and there is an aspect of God's nature that is wild and untamed. Just as a lone wolf's spine tingling howl expresses an inward yearning, deep within all of us there is a desire to experience a real connection with our Heavenly Father. We share a common desire for our knowledge of God to be more than just head knowledge. There is a deep cry within our hearts for something of God.

The author of Ecclesiastes touches on this subject in Ecclesiastes.

Read **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

- How would you describe eternity?
- What does this say about the role of the heart in our search for God?
- There is an element of mystery around God and the way he works – do you feel this is easy to accept?

On Sunday Guy used different modes of travelling to illustrate the journey we need are on in our search for God; sailing, cycling, tramping and horse riding.

Sailing

The ocean is a wild place. It is vast and untameable and while there is an element of control when sailing there is so much beyond our control – such as the tides, the waves and the winds. Life is a lot like this. Often we are subject to the conditions and circumstances around us.

- Have you ever felt like your life has been directionless?

Read **Matthew 16:24**

- How do you think that Jesus can help us to navigate our way through life?

Matthew 16:24-26 The Message

Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?"

- Why do you think Jesus would lead us toward suffering when our natural instinct is to avoid it?

Cycling

To cycle around a country takes a good bike and some useful equipment – i.e. a tent. However when we carry too much "stuff" on the journey, stuff we aren't designed to carry, it has the effect of making it hard work. Lightening the load not only frees us up but it helps to ensure that we can go the distance.

- Have you ever been so worn out that you couldn't enjoy life?
- What are you holding onto that you that may not be as useful as you thought and in reality is just excess baggage?

Read Matthew 11:28-29

- How can Jesus help us to lighten the load?

Matthew 11:28-30 The Message (MSG)

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

- Would you say you are enjoying the journey?

Tramping

Obviously tramping can be very hard going sometimes. What can make all the difference to us is being part of a team. It is the same in life where it can be a real hard slog sometimes.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and 1 Thessalonians 5:13-15

- What benefit is there in having others around us on the same journey?
- What qualifications do you think we need to have in order to encourage someone else?

Jeremiah 6:16

- What are some of the markers we can look to for direction in our journey of faith?

Not only are there those who around us to encourage us but there are those who have gone before us that can help to guide us in our journey to freedom.

Horse riding

Horses can be unpredictable sometimes – especially if we are inexperienced. Life can also present us with unexpected situations.

- Is there an area in your life that you are wary of because of a bad experience in the past?

God invites us to confront our fears – fears that we can face with him by our side that we may not be able to on our own. Ultimately it comes down to trusting that God is good and that his love for us is a very real thing. When we face the trials and disappointments that happen all too often in life we will discover God is with us on this journey.
