

The Land Between - Finding God in difficult transitions

Notes for leaders

Introduction

The Land Between is a five-session series based on the book by Jeff Manion. Jeff uses the biblical story of the Israelite's journey through Sinai desert as a metaphor for being in undesired, transitional space. After enduring generations of slavery in Egypt, the descendants of Jacob travel through the desert ('The Land Between') toward their new home in Canaan. They crave the food of their former home in Egypt and despise their present environment. They are unable to go back and incapable of moving forward. The Land Between explores the way in which their reactions can provide insight and guidance on how to respond to God during our own seasons of difficult transition. The book provides fresh biblical insight for people travelling through undesired transitions who are looking for hope, guidance, and encouragement. While it is possible to move through transitions and learn little, they provide our greatest opportunity for spiritual growth. God desires to meet us in our chaos and emotional upheaval, and he intends for us to encounter his goodness and provision during these upsetting seasons.

The course

Session 1: Complaint

Session 2: Meltdown

Session 3: Provision

Session 4: Discipline

Session 5: Growth

The author

Jeff Manion is the Senior Teaching Pastor of Ada Bible Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Known for his vibrant teaching skills and passion for communicating the Scriptures in a clear and relevant way, Jeff Manion has served as teaching pastor for more than 25 years. His church of 6,000 attendees was named by Outreach magazine as one of America's largest and fastest growing churches in 2009.

Suggested format

Welcome, opening prayer and worship	(15 minutes)
Bible study	(20 minutes)
DVD presentation	(10 minutes)
Questions and discussion	(30 minutes)
Prayer ministry and closing prayer	(15 minutes)

Preparation

You will need to read through the notes for each study in advance. Take some time to pray through the materials, seeking God's guidance and direction and make notes of your responses to the questions. If there are any areas where you are unsure, consider contacting a church leader.

It is not necessary that your group completes all the questions included in the studies. Set the appropriate time limit for your group and stick to it. An indication of timing is given in the grey box for each section. Depending on the dynamic of your group, you may find that you can only complete a few of the questions in the time allocated. If this is the case, review the questions beforehand and choose the ones that will be of most value to your group.