

## Life Trails Small Group Study Guide

### Lesson 31 – Wilderness Guide 4

From Sunday, May 22

#### Warm Up:

Who's #1? Survey your group to see who lands at the top in each of the suggested categories.

- Most states (or countries) visited
- Most kids or grandkids
- Most speeding tickets
- Most houses lived in
- Most famous person met (you can debate this one!)
- Most accidents
- Most jobs held
- Most reasonable
- Most humble

#### *Discuss*

- If you were the top of one of the above categories, how did it make you feel?
- Why do we tend to measure people using the “most” criteria?
- Is there some other area where you would perhaps be the most? Want to share it?

#### Debrief:

*Truth only transforms us as we take action. A small group discussion can help us think more clearly, but we also need to challenge each other to take steps of faith. Taking time to debrief reminds us that faith needs to be lived out every day.*

From May 8

- In the message there were eight suggestions shared about parenting in the wilderness, but most of them (with a little imagination) could be applied to simply living in the wilderness. Which one hits home to you – and what can you do to live it?

From May 15

- Set aside some time in the next week for personal introspection and soul-searching. At that time ask God to show you the things in your life where you actually need to repent. Work through them one at a time, identify and confess the sin, then determine how to live differently in those areas of your life. Remember, repentance should result in life change.

**From the message:**

- What are some of the “gifts” that you individually or as a group have been given? How might they be used for others and for God?
- How would you define success? And how can a person tell whether or not he/she is?
- In several cases John speaks to the idea that he is not worthy of Jesus? How would that attitude translate to today’s world for a Christ-follower?
- What in Heather’s story had the most impact?

**From the passage: *John 3:22-36***

- This is the only passage that tells us that Jesus also baptized as part of his ministry. Why was it such a big part of John’s ministry, but maybe not so much a big part of Jesus’ ministry?
- Verses 31-36 seem to be added by the author (John the disciple) as a commentary on verses 22-30. What points does he emphasize? What does he add to the “discussion”?
- Where does John find joy in this life / this situation?

**For discussion:**

- What are some of the best ways to measure a person’s life?
- What are some of the other definitions of success that we hear in culture today? What is the problem with each?
- Sometimes people use their faith or their ministry or even the church to promote themselves? What does this look like? And how can we be more discerning about this in our lives and the lives of others?
- How has your perspective of success changed as you have gotten older (or become more mature in your faith)?
- What does true humility look like? Act like? Sound like? Think like?
- Many of the things we pursue in life – job security, a good family, the respect of others – are not necessarily bad things. How can we give them importance while not making them the goal?

- What determines what gets priority in your life? (measured by time invested in, money spent on, attention directed to, etc.)
- Complete this statement: "I will feel successful in life if..."
- What advice would you give your HS graduation day self?
- What does it mean to be #2? Why is it hard? Why is it a worthy goal?
- What are some of the not-so-obvious ways we tend to be about ourselves?

**Activation:**

Set aside some time to do some self-inspection. Judging by what you give the most effort and attention to in life, what would an observer say is your definition of success? Where does it need to change, and what would be one step you could take? Talk about taking that step.