



## Discussion Guide for “Get a Grip!” Pure Imagination Week 3

For those with less-than-perfect lives, the Christmas season can sometimes feel like wandering in a desert, thirsty for the holiday cheer that seems to come so easily for others. The prophet Isaiah spoke to a people living in a sort of wilderness of their own, and his words help us see how we can pursue life and hope even in the midst of our own deserts because the desert is where we learn to love God best.

### Scriptures for Further Reading

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#)

[Psalm 146:5-10](#)

[Matthew 11:2-11](#)

[Hebrew 12:5-15](#)

[James 5:7-10](#)

### Passage for Sacred Reading:

A sacred reading is a method of reading Scripture that invites God to speak to us through the text. If you have never done a sacred reading, [here is a simple step-by-step guide](#). This week’s passage is [Hebrews 12:1-29](#).

### Questions for Discussion

1. Are there any desert places in your Christmas season? Why are they especially difficult to navigate this time of year?
2. When have you felt disappointed with God? Why is that?
3. Why do you think later prophets looked back on Israel’s time in the desert as a time God was wooing them? What does that tell you about your own desert experiences?
4. Read Hebrews 12:5-15. The author quotes Isaiah 35, and compares our desert experiences to discipline. How is this evidence of God’s love for us?
5. What does it look like for you to take the writer of Hebrews’ advice this week? How can you live well in those desert places in your life?