

Waybook: Colorado – In Awe and Quiet

Let go. Slow down. Listen deeply.

Day 1: Welcome to the Quiet

Daily Reading: Mark 6:30–46; 2 Kings 5:1–14; Psalm 46

Key Scripture:

“And he said to them, ‘Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.” —Mark 6:31 (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context:

In Mark 6, Jesus welcomes His disciples back from their first mission. They've been teaching, healing, casting out demons—giving everything they have. But the first thing Jesus does isn't send them back out or ask for a report. He says, “Come away. Rest.” He doesn't equate exhaustion with holiness. He honors their limits.

Psalm 46 picks up this same theme: God's presence isn't proven by the absence of chaos, but by stillness within it. *“Be still and know that I am God.”* The command is simple. The trust it demands is not.

Then we meet Naaman, in 2 Kings 5—a powerful man with a clear expectation for how healing should happen. He imagines something loud, dramatic, impressive. Instead, the prophet Elisha sends word: Go wash in the Jordan River. No ceremony. No spectacle. Just obedience. At first, Naaman is insulted. *“Behold, I thought...”* he says.

How many of us come to God saying the same?

Devotional:

You're here. You've packed the bags, made the arrangements, carved out the time. And somewhere inside, maybe without even realizing it, you've brought a quiet pressure: *Let this be the thing.*

Let this be the trip that shifts everything. That gives me peace. That speaks clearly. That delivers something big—new friendships, a word from God, a moment I'll never forget.



That longing is human. And honest. But it can also become a script so rigid that we miss what's actually unfolding.

Because here's the truth: this trip will not be perfect.

The weather may change. The group may not click the way you hoped. You might feel a little out of place. You might not "hear" God in some epic, unforgettable way.

And yet—God will be here.

He doesn't need drama to move. He isn't waiting for conditions to be ideal. In fact, He often chooses the quiet, the unremarkable, the mundane. Just ask Naaman.

Naaman almost walked away from healing because it didn't match his expectations.

"Behold, I thought..." Those words are as old as our disappointment and as present as our own internal narratives. We all arrive with a version of what we think this journey should be.

But what if God has something different in mind?

What if He doesn't want to give you a moment—but a softening?

What if He isn't rushing to fix you—but inviting you to stop fixing yourself?

So, let this first day be a laying down. Of expectations. Of control. Of urgency.

You do not need to make this meaningful. You do not need to orchestrate transformation. You do not need to force God to speak.

Instead, ask for a softer heart.

Start here: release your grip. Lay down the pressure to extract meaning and simply receive what is. Be present. Open. Available. Invite God—not to speak into the fantasy you've constructed—but to reframe your heart through what actually is.

This journey may be quieter than you imagined. But every moment—no matter how small, strange, or silent—is a moment that God can use.

Let Him.

Morning Reflection Questions:

- What expectations am I carrying into this journey—spoken or unspoken?
- Where do I hear myself saying, *"Behold, I thought..."*?
- Am I willing to release my imagined version of this trip and receive what God is truly doing?

Location Context:

- Evergreen was once a quiet escape for Denver's early leaders—a natural retreat long sought after for its calm.
- Evergreen Lake, created in the 1920s, was meant for reflection as much as recreation.
- The pine trees here release a vanilla-butterscotch scent when warmed by the sun—a reminder that beauty often arrives subtly, not loudly.

Evening Journaling Prompts:

- Where did I notice myself clinging to expectations today?
- Was there a moment that felt less “perfect” but somehow more real?
- What might God be saying through what didn't go the way I planned?

Day 2: Stillness and Majesty

Daily Reading: Isaiah 30:8–22; Mark 4:35–41

Key Scripture:

“For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, ‘In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.’ But you were unwilling.” —Isaiah 30:15 (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context:

Isaiah 30 is a rebuke, but a tender one. Israel is looking for help from Egypt—running toward political alliances and manmade solutions instead of waiting on God. God’s word through Isaiah is sharp: *“In quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”* But the tragedy is in the next line: *“But you were unwilling.”*

This isn’t about external calm. It’s about an internal posture—trusting God’s presence even when the noise of life demands action.

Mark 4 offers a similar moment. The disciples are in a storm. Jesus is asleep. They panic. But Jesus isn’t disturbed by the wind. He rebukes it—and then gently rebukes them: *“Have you still no faith?”* The stillness He commands in the sea is the stillness He desires in their souls.

Devotional:

The stillness we seek today has little to do with the quiet of the mountains.

Yes, the lakes are calm. Yes, the trails are hushed. But those are just symbols—signposts pointing toward something deeper: the stillness of the heart that comes not from silence, but from **trust**.

You can go the entire day without speaking and still be full of noise. You can stand in front of the most peaceful landscape and still be ruled by worry. Silence without surrender is just theater. And stillness without trust is still striving.

Hurry and worry—these are some of Satan’s most effective tools. Not always loud. Just constant. Just convincing enough to keep us scrambling for control, even in the name of God.

But the Kingdom doesn’t operate in hurry. God is not rushed. He is not late. And He is not anxious.

So today, the invitation is not just to walk slowly or speak less. It’s to **trust more deeply**.



Can you let go of the need to manage the moment? Can you stop trying to extract spiritual reward from a landscape and instead receive it as a gift—no strings, no expectations?

This is what God meant through Isaiah: *"In returning and rest... in quietness and trust... shall be your strength."* Not in your activity. Not in your analysis. In your willingness to wait on Him.

The disciples in the boat wanted Jesus to wake up and *do something*. But His sleep wasn't indifference—it was trust. His rest was His authority. And it became their lesson.

Maybe God isn't silent to frustrate you. Maybe He's inviting you to learn His pace.

So when the views overwhelm or underwhelm, when the mind keeps cycling, when nothing feels "spiritually productive"—pause. Ask: *Am I trusting right now, or just trying to appear still?*

The peace you seek isn't out there. It's in here. Let the mountains remind you—but let trust anchor you.

Morning Reflection Questions:

- Where am I seeking silence without surrender?
- What does it look like for me to trust God more deeply right now?
- What keeps me from believing that "quietness and trust" are enough?

Location Context:

- The Bear Lake area is surrounded by peaks named for apostles: Hallett, Flattop, Otis—echoes of those who learned to trust in the storms.
- Sprague Lake reflects the Continental Divide—a symbolic image of inner division and stilling what's split within us.
- Alberta Falls was named after a settler's wife. Its continual flow speaks of movement within stillness—a picture of peace that's not passive.

Evening Journaling Prompts:

- Was there a moment I looked still on the outside but felt chaotic inside?
- How did I respond when God felt silent or slow?
- What would it take for me to trust God with this moment, exactly as it is?



Day 3: Selah Day in the Mountains

Daily Reading: Genesis 2:1–3; Matthew 11:25–30

Key Scripture:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” —Matthew 11:28–29 (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context:

In Genesis 2, God rests—not because He is tired, but because the work is complete. Creation is finished, and God takes joy in what He’s made. Rest is not a reaction to exhaustion—it’s a celebration of what is good.

Jesus’ words in Matthew echo that design. He invites the weary not to work harder, but to come closer. His rest is not a nap or a time-out—it’s soul-deep relief and restoration. It’s not about doing less. It’s about living differently. It’s about drawing near to the One who carries the weight for you.

And then there’s *Selah*—a word scattered throughout the Psalms. It’s likely a musical term, marking a pause. A breath. A moment to stop and take in what has just been said. *Selah* is the invitation to stop moving and let meaning catch up with you.

Devotional:

Selah.

(SAY-luh.)

It means pause. Breathe. Let it settle.

Today is a *Selah*—not a break in the story, but a deep breath inside it.

Everything around you—the trail, the air, the time carved out, the people beside you—it’s all a gift. Not something to earn or prove worthy of. It’s been given. Freely. Generously. You’re not here by accident. This moment has been prepared for you.

There’s nothing you need to achieve today. Nothing to figure out or push toward. Today is not about progress. It’s about presence.

God wants you to enjoy Him.



Not in theory. Not by studying or striving. But by being fully here. In the wind moving through the trees. In the coolness of water over rocks. In laughter around a table. In stillness that doesn't demand an outcome.

This is not an escape from the spiritual life. This *is* the spiritual life.

Rest is not just something God allows. It's something He commands—because He knows how badly we need it. And because He wants us to know how deeply we're loved, even when we're not producing anything.

So go ahead. Walk slowly. Sit longer than you need to. Eat something delicious and thank God for the way it tastes. Make something for no reason at all. Take a photo just because it made you smile.

This is worship too.

And if the chance arises—open yourself to community. You don't need to be profound or polished. Just be present. The people here are part of the gift too. Sometimes, joy shows up in a conversation you didn't plan, a laugh you didn't expect.

Let today be simple. Let it be full. Let it be enough.

The invitation is to enjoy what is already true:

You are loved.

You are held.

You are free.

Selah.

Morning Reflection Questions:

- What would it look like to enjoy today without pressure?
- How might I receive this day as a gift instead of something to manage?
- Am I open to delight—not as escape, but as a way of knowing God?

Location Context:

- Evergreen was built around rhythm and retreat—first by Native peoples, then by homesteaders, and later by artists and travelers seeking beauty.
- The forest here is filled with ponderosa pines, deer trails, and quiet meadows—spaces that ask nothing but awareness.



- Many find creative inspiration here—not by forcing it, but by resting long enough for it to surface naturally.

Evening Journaling Prompts:

- What did I enjoy today, simply for its own sake?
- Where did I feel most aware of God's presence without trying?
- Was there a moment of connection—with nature, with others, with myself—that felt like a gift?



Day 4: Seven Falls and the Wonder Within

Daily Reading: Psalm 8; Mark 12:28–34

Key Scripture:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” —Mark 12:30–31 (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context:

Psalm 8 is a song of astonishment. David looks into the night sky and feels the tension: the glory of God above, and the mystery of being human below. And yet—those made in God’s image are given dignity. God’s creation points to something greater than itself.

In Mark 12, Jesus affirms what has always been central to the heart of God: love—both vertical and horizontal. Love of God, in fullness. Love of others, without condition. There is no awe deeper than this.

Devotional:

There is something in you that responds to wonder. The crash of water, the height of stone, the rhythm of your own breath climbing upward—it calls something out.

You may not be able to name it, but you feel it: a rising, a stillness, a hush.

Seven Falls doesn’t need words. It only needs your presence. The roar and rise of the water are their own kind of liturgy—one you feel more than analyze. You stand there, not to understand, but to behold.

But even this—this beauty, this awe—is only the beginning.

Creation is the introduction, not the conclusion. Every canyon leads somewhere. Every echo is a hint of a deeper voice.

Awe is not the end. It’s a doorway.

The grandeur of the rock, the height of the climb, the rush of the ropes—it all invites you to keep going. Not just up, but in. Into the quiet mysteries of being made. Into the awareness that the most breathtaking terrain may not be the cliffs or the sky—but the soul.

There is a depth in you that mirrors the vastness out here. And there is a beauty in others that no landscape can rival, if you have eyes to see it.



You were made to be moved—not just by mountains, but by meaning.

Today, don't rush past that. Let the landscape stir your reverence. But let it also guide your gaze deeper. What is this awe pointing toward? Where is it trying to lead you?

Maybe the path ahead isn't higher, but more inward.

And maybe what God is revealing isn't just out there—it's something He's awakening in you.

Morning Reflection Questions:

- When I experience awe, where does it lead me?
- Do I allow wonder to slow me down—or do I move past it?
- What might God be inviting me to see more deeply today?

Location Context:

- Seven Falls drops in seven natural steps through a box canyon long revered for its wild, layered beauty.
- The rock surrounding the falls is part of the Precambrian formation—among the oldest exposed rock in North America.
- The nearby ropes course, suspended in the air, is not just about strength—but about perspective and presence.

Evening Journaling Prompts:

- Where did I feel awe today, and what did it stir in me?
- Did the beauty around me point to something deeper within?
- What quiet realizations emerged—about God, about the world, about my place in it?



Day 5: Garden of the Gods + Celebration

Daily Reading: Romans 12:1–2; John 15:1–11

Key Scripture:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...” — Romans 12:2a (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context:

Romans 12 marks a hinge in Paul's letter—from deep theological reflection to practical formation. The “renewal of your mind” isn't a one-time event. It's a process of reorientation—seeing life, yourself, and others through the lens of God's mercy and presence. It's transformation from the inside out.

In John 15, Jesus uses the image of a vine to describe how His life flows into ours. The word He repeats is “abide.” Not perform. Not produce. Abide. From that place—of nearness, trust, and relationship—fruit grows naturally: joy, peace, love, and gratitude.

Devotional:

The towering stone formations of Garden of the Gods rise with quiet confidence. They don't need to declare their worth—they've been shaped by time, pressure, and presence. And now, they simply stand.

There's something about this place that doesn't just invite awe—it invites reflection.

As you move through these paths today, perhaps you begin to sense something coming together. Not a conclusion, but a kind of clarity.

This week hasn't been about perfection or production. It's been about presence. About releasing what you carried in, noticing what stirred along the way, and letting something deeper begin to take root.

This is the transformation Paul speaks of in Romans 12—a re-shaping that starts not with effort, but with mercy. *“In view of God's mercy,”* he writes, *“offer your bodies as a living sacrifice... be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”*

Gratitude is part of that renewal. It changes the way we see what's in front of us. It shifts us from scarcity to abundance, from striving to receiving. It roots us in the present moment—acknowledging that what is here is enough.



Jesus' invitation to abide in John 15 echoes that same rhythm. Stay close. Remain. Let His love and life flow into yours—not just when you're on a mountaintop, but when you return to the ordinary. *"These things I have spoken to you,"* He says, *"that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."*

Joy doesn't come from knowing everything. It comes from receiving what's been given.

So today, receive it all. The landscape. The laughter. The questions that remain. The moments of clarity and the quiet spaces in between.

Let gratitude rise—not because the journey is complete, but because it's been good. Not perfect, but good.

As the sun fades across the rock, and as you gather for your final shared meal, reflect not on what you've figured out—but on what you've been given.

Name it.

Bless it.

And begin, slowly, to turn toward what's next—not with dread, but with thanks.

Because the God who has walked with you here will walk with you there.

Abide.

Be transformed.

Give thanks.

Morning Reflection Questions:

- How has my perspective begun to shift this week?
- What does it look like to "abide" in Jesus as I return to daily life?
- Where do I feel the quiet stirrings of renewal?

Location Context:

- Garden of the Gods was named in 1859 by explorers who saw in its natural grandeur something nearly divine.
- The sandstone towers are part of a geologic uplift that exposed millions of years of hidden stone—beauty revealed through movement and time.

- This land draws together contrast: red rock, green valley, blue sky. Like the inner terrain of the human soul, it is both ancient and new.

Evening Journaling Prompts:

- What moments or images from today stirred gratitude in me?
- How do I sense God preparing me—not just to return, but to carry this forward?
- What small practices or reminders might help me remain rooted when I go home?



Day 6: Send-Off + Return

Daily Reading: Numbers 6:22–27; Philippians 1:3–6

Key Scripture:

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” —Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

Devotional:

It's the last morning. Your bag might be zipped. The car might already be loaded. Conversations are quieter. Everyone's a little slower. This is the part of the trip that always comes—when the experience shifts from something you're in to something you carry forward.

You've been in beautiful places. You've shared meals and walks and quiet moments. Some parts were probably better than you expected. Others maybe didn't go how you hoped. But either way, you made it here. And that matters.

This trip wasn't meant to fix everything. It was meant to give you space.

Space to breathe.

Space to notice.

Space to be with God and with others—without the noise of everyday life.

If you found something here—a moment of peace, a spark of joy, a bit of clarity—be thankful for it. Don't try to hold onto it too tightly. Just name it. And let it be what it was: a gift.

Even if you don't feel different right now, that doesn't mean this didn't matter. A lot of growth happens after the fact—when you've had time to let it sink in. The thoughts you didn't have words for this week might come to you next week in the car, or while doing dishes, or in a quiet moment on a random Tuesday.

That's how God works. Slowly. Steadily. Honestly.

So as you go home, don't make promises to change everything. Just stay open. Remember the quiet. Remember the rest. Remember the people you traveled with. And keep paying attention to what God might still be doing.

Paul told the Philippians he was confident that God would finish what He started. That's a good word to leave with. You don't need to finish this. You just need to keep walking.

Go home with hope.

Not pressure.



Not guilt.
Just hope.

God is with you—on this road, and the next one too.

Morning Reflection Questions:

- What am I most thankful for from this trip?
- What's one thing I want to remember when I get back home?
- How do I want to move forward—not in theory, but in practice?

Evening Journaling Prompts:

- What parts of this experience feel like they still have something to teach me?
- Is there someone I want to share a piece of this journey with?
- What might change if I just stayed open and grateful, one day at a time?

Closing Prayer:

God, thank You for what You've given me this week—whether loud or quiet, clear or still forming.

Help me carry it well.

Help me stay open to You as I return.

Give me the grace to remember what matters.

The strength to live it out.

And the peace to know You're with me in every next step.

Amen.