

Waybook: Ireland – Faith in the Wild

Silence. Surrender. Presence. Transformation.

Day 1: The Threshold — Departing & Preparing

Daily Reading

Genesis 12:1–9
Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Key Scripture

"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.'"
— Genesis 12:1 (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context

In Genesis 12, God calls Abram to leave everything familiar—his land, his family, his security—and go to a place he has never seen. It's not a call to vacation. It's a call to transformation. The journey would shape the man.

Matthew 13 contains the parable of the sower—a story Jesus uses to explain how different hearts receive the Word. The seed is always good, but not every soil is ready. Some hearts are too distracted. Some too shallow. Others are choked by worry. But the receptive heart bears fruit.

Both passages remind us: the impact of the journey isn't just about where you go. It's about what you carry inside.

Devotional

Today, the journey begins—not with a cathedral or a coastline, but with motion. A departure. A letting go.



Airports. Layovers. Security lines. They're not glamorous. But they are significant—if you let them be. Because this is the threshold. The crossing from ordinary into something unknown.

And how you step into it matters.

You may already have expectations. About the places you'll see. The feelings you hope to feel. The kind of community you want to find. That's human. But can we start by holding all of it loosely?

This trip won't be perfect. The weather might not cooperate. The schedule may shift. Personalities will rub. Silence might feel awkward. That's not failure—that's reality.

But what you bring to it will shape what you receive from it.

The truth is, community doesn't just happen. It grows when people take small, honest steps toward one another. When you choose to share something real. Ask a second question. Listen more than you speak.

And transformation? That doesn't come automatically with airfare. It comes when your heart is soft enough to be stretched. When you say: "God, whatever You have for me on this trip—even if it's not what I expected—I want it."

Everyone around you feels it too. The awkwardness. The uncertainty. The hope. That alone is a place to begin.

So today, as you fly and wait and arrive, take a moment to name your expectations. Then offer them to God.

Because this is not just a trip. It's an invitation. And it begins now.

Morning Reflection Questions

- What expectations am I bringing into this experience?
- Where do I feel nervous or hesitant—and can I name that honestly?
- Am I open to receiving whatever God has for me, even if it looks different than I imagined?

Location Context

- Today is mostly spent in the air, in airports, in between. But that liminal space is part of every biblical journey.

- Abraham began with motion before clarity. Jesus taught the crowds *in transit*, as they gathered, as they moved.
- This time is not wasted. It's where the shift begins—inside.

Evening Journaling Prompts

- How did I show up today—in posture, in spirit?
- What assumptions or control do I need to release?
- What small step could I take to engage more fully—with God, with others, with myself?



Day 2: Christ-Centered Beginnings — Dublin

Daily Reading

Luke 24:13–35

Colossians 1:15–20

Key Scripture

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

— Luke 24:27 (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context

The story in Luke 24 unfolds just after Jesus' resurrection. Two disciples, disoriented and downcast, leave Jerusalem for Emmaus. Jesus joins them on the road, but they don't recognize Him until He breaks bread with them. This story is unique to Luke and emphasizes how Christ is present even when we fail to see Him.

In Celtic Christian tradition, faith was often lived in motion—along rugged coastlines, through forest paths, in communal walks. The idea of "thin places," where heaven and earth seem to touch, wasn't about geography as much as awareness. This first day is about just that: noticing.

Devotional

Every journey begins with unknowns.

You've packed your bag, boarded the plane, crossed an ocean—and maybe somewhere between airports and customs, the deeper reason for coming started to feel foggy. Now you're here. The soil of Ireland under your feet. But is your heart here?

In Luke 24, two disciples are walking the wrong direction—away from Jerusalem, away from the center of the story. They're carrying grief, confusion, unmet expectations. And Jesus doesn't scold them for it. He joins them in it. He walks beside them and listens before He teaches. He doesn't interrupt their wandering—He transforms it.

That's the invitation of this first day: not to *rush* into meaning, but to *walk* into it. Slowly. Honestly. With open hands.



Visiting Christ Church Cathedral today offers a chance to re-center—not on a monument, but on a Person. As you step through its ancient arches, you're not stepping into a museum. You're stepping into a space that has hosted centuries of prayer and doubt, confession and renewal. And like the disciples on the Emmaus road, you're invited to be interrupted—not by performance or pretense, but by the quiet presence of Christ.

This is your Emmaus road moment.

This journey isn't just about where you're going. It's about who is walking with you. And whether or not you recognize Him yet, He is already here.

Let today be your reorientation. Set down your assumptions, your plans, your need to "get it right." Start by asking a simple question: **Jesus, would You walk this with me?**

He always does.

Morning Reflection Questions

- What am I carrying with me into this journey—emotionally, spiritually?
- Am I open to having my expectations undone by God?
- How do I respond when Jesus seems hidden or quiet?

Location Context

- **Christ Church Cathedral:** One of Dublin's oldest and most iconic cathedrals, with foundations dating back to the 11th century.
- Originally a Norse church, later reformed under English rule, it has stood through centuries of conflict and revival.
- Serves as a visual reminder of the durability of Christ's Church—and the complexity of its history.

Evening Journaling Prompts

- Where did I feel closest to God today? Where did I feel distant?
- What did Christ Church Cathedral stir in me—comfort, discomfort, awe?
- What would it look like for me to truly walk with Jesus this week, not just learn about Him?



Day 3: Solitude & Stillness — Glendalough

Daily Reading

1 Kings 19:1–18

Mark 1:35–39

Key Scripture

"And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak..."

— 1 Kings 19:12–13a (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context

In 1 Kings 19, Elijah has just faced a spiritual high on Mount Carmel and now crashes into exhaustion, fear, and despair. He runs into the wilderness, overwhelmed. God meets him—not in the earthquake or the fire, but in the stillness.

Centuries later, St. Kevin retreated to Glendalough, a valley of two lakes, to live a life of prayer, solitude, and communion with God. His radical simplicity and connection with creation sparked a monastic movement that drew others seeking quiet transformation.

This day echoes both stories—of leaders who fled the noise only to find God whispering in the silence.

Devotional

Stillness doesn't come naturally.

We live on a steady diet of notifications, noise, and demands—voices telling us to be more, do more, fix more. Even when we travel to a place like Ireland, we can bring all that internal static with us. We sit on a mossy rock surrounded by beauty, but our mind is somewhere else.

That's why Glendalough matters.

It's not just a stunning valley—it's an invitation. To stop. To listen. To remember who we are when no one else is looking.

St. Kevin came here not to escape the world, but to create space to see it rightly. Solitude wasn't his end goal; intimacy with God was. And that's our invitation too.



In 1 Kings, Elijah had reached the end of himself. He thought he was alone, thought he had failed. God didn't rebuke him. He gave him rest. Fed him. And then He whispered.

Many of us have been running on empty for a long time—spiritually tired, emotionally frayed. But God still speaks in whispers. The problem isn't that He's silent. It's that our lives are too loud.

Today, as you walk the trails, hear your feet crunch on gravel. Listen to the water lapping against the shore. Let the wind through the trees carry more weight than the world's expectations. Take a deep breath—not just with your lungs, but with your soul.

You don't have to perform today. You're not here to prove anything. You're here to be.

Let the silence stretch. Let the ache surface. Let the whisper come.

Morning Reflection Questions

- What noise am I carrying within me right now?
- Am I afraid of stillness? Why?
- What would it look like to let God lead the conversation today?

Location Context

- **Glendalough:** Founded in the 6th century by St. Kevin, this monastic site became a place of retreat and spiritual depth for generations.
- The round tower symbolized watchfulness and refuge, often used as a place of prayer and contemplation.
- Surrounded by lakes and mountains, it models how creation can become a companion in hearing God's voice.

Evening Journaling Prompts

- When did I experience stillness today—and how did it affect me?
- What came up in the quiet that I hadn't noticed before?
- What might God be whispering to me in this season of my life?



Day 4: Faith That Endures — Cashel & Celtic Crosses

Daily Reading

Hebrews 12:1–13

Psalms 78:1–8

Key Scripture

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight... and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..."

— Hebrews 12:1 (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context

The book of Hebrews was written to early Christians tempted to give up their faith in the face of persecution and hardship. Chapter 11 recounts a long list of faithful men and women—Abraham, Moses, Rahab—who followed God even when they didn't see immediate reward. Then, Hebrews 12 turns the focus onto us: *run your race with endurance, because you're not alone.*

These believers are called a "cloud of witnesses"—not passive spectators, but examples who cheer us on through their stories. This passage reminds us that faith is not a sprint; it's a long, often painful race. But we are not the first to run it—and we won't be the last.

Psalms 78 echoes that call to generational legacy. The psalmist urges God's people to pass on His works and commandments to their children, so that the next generation would know and trust Him. This was not just about information—it was about identity. God's story, told well, shapes how we live.

Together, these texts confront us with two questions: *Are you enduring? And are you building something that endures beyond you?*

Devotional

Over the past few days, we've stripped away static. We've pursued stillness. We've started to hear again—not just with our ears, but with our souls.

So now comes the deeper question: **What remains?**

What kind of life are you building?



The Rock of Cashel rises like a fortress from the Irish landscape. The Celtic crosses at Monasterboice or Clonmacnoise are weathered but still standing. These places tell a story—not of perfection, but of perseverance. They are ruins, yes, but they are also **remnants of legacy**. Evidence that something lasting was built here.

Scripture today calls us to that same vision. Hebrews reminds us: you're not the first to run this race. You're surrounded by a lineage of faith—men and women who lived, struggled, trusted, and endured. You're not alone in your doubts or your weariness. You're not even the point of the story—Christ is. But your part still matters.

Psalms 78 then adds another layer: this isn't just about you. It's about the people coming after you. Your faith isn't only for today—it's a thread in a much bigger tapestry. Your trust in God might be the foundation someone else stands on years from now.

So what legacy are you building?

Not a reputation. Not a resume. A **legacy of faith**—something that outlasts your name. Something that points to Jesus long after you're gone.

Every prayer. Every small act of obedience. Every moment of forgiveness. Every unseen decision to walk in truth—**these are stones in your monument to God**.

Today, let these ancient stones ask you something:

What story will your life tell when it's weathered by time?

You don't need to do something dramatic. You just need to be faithful.

Morning Reflection Questions

- What remains when the noise fades?
- What values have quietly shaped my life?
- What legacy am I building, whether I realize it or not?

Location Context

- **Rock of Cashel:** A historic stronghold of Irish kings, later transformed into a religious center. Its ruins bear witness to the collision of power and faith.
- **Monasterboice / Clonmacnoise:** Monastic centers from the early Christian period. Their towering high crosses, etched with biblical scenes, served as teaching tools and visual Bibles.



- These sites are less about the past and more about the **invitation to build something eternal** with our lives.

Evening Journaling Prompts

- What image or moment from today stirred something lasting in me?
- What do I want to be remembered for—not by many, but by those I love?
- How can I start carving something eternal with my life, beginning now?



Day 5: Awe & Worship in the Wild — Cliffs of Moher & Burren

Daily Reading

Job 38

Mark 4:35–41

Key Scripture

"Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.'"

— Job 38:1, 4 (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context

The book of Job is a profound exploration of human suffering, divine mystery, and the limits of our understanding. For 37 chapters, Job and his friends debate reasons for his suffering—until God finally speaks.

But God doesn't answer Job's questions directly. Instead, He takes Job on a tour of creation: oceans, stars, animals, weather. God's point isn't to diminish Job's pain—it's to reframe it.

God is bigger. Deeper. Wilder. More intricate than we imagine.

In Mark 4, Jesus calms the storm with a word—and the disciples are stunned not just by the stillness, but by His authority. "Who then is this?" they ask. It's the same question Job faced:

Who is this God, and how small have I made Him?

These passages invite us into awe—not as a feeling, but as a posture.

Devotional

Stand at the edge of the Cliffs of Moher and you'll feel it: your smallness.

The wind doesn't ask your permission. The waves don't care who you are. The scale is disorienting—in the best way. Because for a moment, your problems shrink. Not because they disappear, but because they've been rightly resized.

This is the gift of wild places.

Over the past few days, you've quieted your soul. You've asked deeper questions. But today invites something else: **awe**.



Awe is not about emotional hype or dramatic moments. It's about humility—about seeing God as far bigger than your box, your calendar, or even your theology. It's about wonder that leads to worship.

In Job 38, God speaks not with answers, but with presence. He reminds Job that the world is full of things we don't control and can't comprehend. And that's not a threat—it's a comfort. You don't have to hold everything together. You were never meant to.

In the Gospels, even the disciples—after seeing miracles—are shaken by one moment at sea. When Jesus calms the storm, they're not just relieved. They're in awe. Because suddenly they realize: they are in the presence of Someone who commands the wind and sea.

You are too.

Today is not about figuring things out. It's about being stunned again by the bigness of God.

Let your heart kneel—even if your body doesn't. Let the cliffs preach a sermon. Let the sea sing over your questions. Let the Burren's strange, beautiful barrenness remind you: God does wonders in desolate places.

Don't try to capture it. Let it capture you.

Morning Reflection Questions

- When was the last time I felt small in a good way?
- Have I lost my sense of awe in who God is?
- What does it look like to let worship flow from wonder?

Location Context

- **Cliffs of Moher:** Towering cliffs on Ireland's Atlantic coast, rising over 700 feet above the sea. A place of raw beauty and vast scale.
- **The Burren:** A limestone landscape filled with rare flora and ancient tombs—barren yet bursting with unexpected life.
- These places remind us that creation can be one of God's most powerful teachers—if we have eyes to see.

Evening Journaling Prompts



- What did the cliffs or coast stir in me today?
- Where did I feel closest to the presence of God?
- How can I carry this posture of awe back into my everyday world?



Day 6: God's Presence in the Remote — Skellig Michael

Daily Reading

Exodus 33:7–23

Jeremiah 29:11–14

Key Scripture

"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord..."

— Jeremiah 29:13–14a (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context

Exodus 33 finds Moses in the wilderness, having just witnessed Israel's devastating failure with the golden calf. God offers to let them enter the Promised Land—but without Him. Moses responds with one of the most honest, weighty prayers in Scripture: "If your presence doesn't go with us, don't send us from here." What mattered most to Moses wasn't success or arrival—but God Himself.

Jeremiah 29 is written to exiles in Babylon—people displaced, disoriented, and tempted to believe they had been abandoned. Yet God promises: *If you seek Me with all your heart, you will find Me*. This was not a casual suggestion—it was a costly invitation. God would not be found halfway.

Both texts confront us with this truth: **God reveals Himself most deeply to those who are willing to leave everything else behind to find Him.**

Devotional

The monks who made their way to Skellig Michael weren't on a spiritual vacation. They weren't seeking a view. They were seeking God.

They left the safety of the mainland, the comfort of daily rhythms, and the nearness of community for one reason: to dwell in the presence of God. And they believed that when all else was stripped away—warmth, comfort, recognition, ease—**God would be enough.**

Living on that island wasn't romantic. It was brutal. Wind and waves. Cold and isolation. Simple food, long silence, and hard physical labor. But none of that compared to what they were after.



They were there to encounter the living God with heart, soul, mind, and strength.

That same call reaches us today.

Not all of us will move to a remote island. But every one of us is invited to leave behind the baggage—mental, emotional, spiritual—that traps us. We carry so much: shame from our past, fear about the future, pride that masks insecurity, and distractions that dull our hunger for God.

Today is about releasing those things.

Because here's the truth: you cannot grab hold of God with a full, clenched fist. Something has to be laid down.

What's holding you back?

Maybe it's comfort. Maybe it's control. Maybe it's bitterness you've learned to live with. Maybe it's the fear that if you really pursued God with your whole heart, He wouldn't meet you.

The monks on Skellig knew better. They trusted that God would meet them—not in ease, but in sacrifice. Not in certainty, but in hunger.

That's what today is about. Whether you reach the island or not, the invitation remains the same: **Seek Him with everything.**

Strip it back. Let it go. He will be found.

Morning Reflection Questions

- What have I been holding onto that's keeping me from fully seeking God?
- Am I pursuing Him with convenience—or with my whole heart?
- What would it look like to seek God's presence above all else today?

Location Context

- **Skellig Michael:** A remote monastic island settled in the 6th century. The monks endured hardship and danger to live a life of prayer, fasting, and Scripture.
- Their stone huts (clocháns) still remain—testimonies to a faith that gave everything for the sake of God's presence.
- The island is not a place of escape—but of costly pursuit.

Evening Journaling Prompts

- What did today reveal about my hunger—or resistance—for God?
- What baggage do I feel ready to lay down?
- How is God inviting me to seek Him more fully—not just here, but when I return?



Day 7: Returning Changed — Full Circle in Dublin

Daily Reading

Luke 8:26–39

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

Key Scripture

"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

— Luke 8:39 (ESV)

Historical/Cultural Context

Luke 8 tells of a man healed by Jesus—delivered from torment and restored to sanity. When Jesus prepares to leave, the man begs to come with Him. But Jesus tells him to do something harder: **go home and live differently**. Proclaim what God has done.

This moment echoes Israel's command in Deuteronomy: to love the Lord fully—and pass that love into the rhythm of everyday life. Write it on your doorposts. Talk about it at meals. Let it shape your home.

Both Scriptures push against the idea that spiritual experiences are isolated. The real test isn't what happens on the mountaintop—it's how it reshapes your life back in the valley.

Devotional

You've traveled far—not just across miles, but inward. You've slowed down. You've listened. You've asked hard questions. You've stripped away noise and let awe do its work.

And now... you go back.

But here's the thing: returning doesn't mean *undoing*. It means *carrying*.

The man in Luke 8 wanted to stay with Jesus—to stay close to what had just changed him. That's natural. But Jesus sent him back to his town, his home, his people. Why? Because transformation isn't just for the one who experiences it—it's meant to ripple outward.

This is where the real journey begins.

The question isn't "What did I feel on the trip?" It's "What do I carry home?"



In Deuteronomy, God's people were commanded to talk about His Word not in a temple, but around their tables. With their kids. In daily life. That's where faith becomes real—not just in epic moments, but in quiet obedience.

So as you walk through Dublin one last time, ask yourself honestly:

What has God stirred in me that I'm not meant to leave behind?

Maybe it's a hunger for silence in a noisy world.

Maybe it's a need to let go of something that's defined you too long.

Maybe it's a conviction to reorder your life around presence, not performance.

Whatever it is, don't try to capture it. Live it. Speak it. Write it on your walls—not in calligraphy, but in the way you wake up, the way you listen, the way you lead and love.

The journey is ending. But *transformation doesn't stay behind*.

Morning Reflection Questions

- What part of this journey has changed me the most?
- What do I sense God asking me to carry home?
- What habits or rhythms need to shift when I return?

Location Context

- **St. Patrick's Cathedral or Dublin Free Time:** Whether you walk through one last church or sit quietly in a city park, this day holds space for personal closure and honest reflection.
- This is not a "wrap-up," but a commissioning. You are being sent—not as a tourist, but as a witness.

Evening Journaling Prompts

- What spiritual truth do I not want to forget?
- How will I mark this moment as a turning point?
- Who needs to hear what God has done in me?

Day 8: Going Home — But Not Backward

Today, you go home.

You may leave with a full heart, with clarity you didn't have before. Or you may leave with questions still echoing, with a sense that something started—but hasn't quite settled yet.

Both are holy.

The truth is: spiritual formation rarely happens all at once. It unfolds slowly—often quietly—over time. What matters is that you stepped away from normal life to seek God. And whether through beauty, silence, Scripture, community—or struggle—He has been near.

Now the real invitation begins: to let what was stirred here take root.

This trip may end with a flight, but it's not meant to stay in your journal or photos. It's meant to shape your Monday mornings. Your relationships. Your habits. Your trust.

The same God who met you on the cliffs and in the cathedrals walks with you into your commute, your home, your every day. You don't need to chase the feeling. You need to follow the presence.

So return intentionally. Pay attention. Start small. And know this: the Way does not end here.

Final Reflection

- What has shifted in me—subtly or significantly—on this journey?
- Where do I want to remain open to God's presence back home?
- What's one step I can take this week to walk forward with intention?

"He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it."

— 1 Thessalonians 5:24

