

# Renewal in the Wilderness

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- \* In the Introduction, Lionberger offers a challenge to stop making excuses about why we're not trying new things that might change our lives (for the *better*) in elemental and profound ways. What excuses do you find yourself making about those changes, about challenging yourself in new ways? What lies behind the excuses? Are they truly valid reasons, or are they simply meant to maintain your life as you know it? If the excuses are, at their core, really fears of the unknown, in what ways are those fears realistic? In the past, how has your fear of things you've tried matched the ultimate reality of those things?
- \* The author focuses on wilderness as truly remote and wild places but acknowledges that such places can also include personal wildernesses, such as aging, depression, and grief. How have you experienced personal wilderness?
- \* In chapter 1, about the hummingbird, did Frank's story of expecting to see God *only* in the big biblical-style miracles match your own expectations? How might you expand your "God vision" to see God in other ways? In what other ways might you allow yourself to see God?
- \* Have you ever had an outdoor experience of "Something Bigger than I Am"? What was the setting and how did it affect you?
- \* What would a *realistically* balanced life look like for you? Spend time envisioning a more balanced life that would add moisture to your life rather than taking it away.
- \* Talk about how important control and predictability are for you, understanding that in some key areas of our lives control and predictability are very important, while in other areas they may not be. Discuss how your need for control might limit your "tastes" and enjoyment of life. How might some surprises be a tonic, a spice, and how might they open pathways to God that we didn't know existed? Discuss with honesty how much control we really have. Think of and discuss ways we can admit to, find ways to live with, and ultimately enjoy, uncertainty.