

# “Wide Open Spaces”

Psalms 18:1-6, 19

September 17, 2023

*<sup>19</sup> He brought me out into a spacious place;  
he rescued me because he delighted in me.*

Resilience is finding \_\_\_\_\_.

What was David's favorite word in this Psalm?  
(circle one) well my enemies?

Isaac dug three wells. What was the meaning of the third one?  
\_\_\_\_\_

The elements of resilience are adversity, \_\_\_\_\_  
power and renewal.

What does John want me to remember? The Lord \_\_\_\_\_  
in me.

## Discussion questions

1. What does adversity mean to you personally? If able, share your experience. How did you process it?
2. How has the gospel worked in your life?
3. Are you able to passionately call out to the Lord?
4. How do you respond to the reality of God's delight in you?

## John & Eriko Houlette



John and Eriko Houlette have served with WorldVenture and now A3 (formerly Asian Access)/SIM for over 40 years. They currently reside in Sendai, Japan. They have four adult children and five grandchildren with another one on the way.

John came to Christ as a college student in Japan after understanding this: *“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8 ESV).

Eriko came to faith in high school. She was challenged by this: *“Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”;”* (Ecclesiastes 12:1 ESV).

The Houlettes were involved in church planting and field leadership for 30 years, planting three churches in the Greater Tokyo area. Since Japan's Triple Disaster in 2011, John has been a disaster response chaplain and clergy care giver. Currently he is the director of Three Stream Ministries which provides counseling, coaching and mentoring to pastors and missionaries and consultation services to churches. In 2020 he published the book, Resilience, How Japanese Pastors Can Thrive in Every Season. The Japanese version of the book received the Office Fujikake Award for excellence in the area of Christian counseling. (Available from Amazon.com)

Eriko has taught Japanese language at Tohoku International School since 2015. They serve as missional partners at Hokushin Calvary Church in Fukushima City.

John runs half-marathons and enjoys riding his road bike. Eriko plays the cello and harp and sings in a choir. She performed in a 500-cello concert last May. She also enjoys caring for her grandchildren and gardening.

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