

Discussion Guide

questions to help start or continue conversations about faith

Discussion Guides accompany [the weekly message](#).

Have you ever been on a road trip and had to take a path that was different than you planned? Share with the group what happened and what you learned.

OR

Have you ever been on a trip and things did not go as planned? Share with the group what happened and what you learned.

Exodus, chapters 13-17, teaches the history of when Israel was once and for all set free from bondage and slavery in Egypt. We learn the Lord led His people through Moses to the Red Sea, and the army of Egypt pursued them there and trapped them by the Red Sea. For a moment, things looked bad ... really, really bad. But God protected His people, and He had a plan to deal with the Pharaoh and his army, a plan that would display the glory and power of God to a nation embarking on a very long journey. The entire nation of Israel walked through the Red Sea on dry land, the army of Egypt was drowned in the Red Sea, and the people of God put their faith in the LORD.

Three days later the people ran out of water, and they were thirsty, but there was no fresh water to drink, and they complained to Moses for leading them into the wilderness. And God miraculously provided fresh water. About a month later, the people ran out of food, and they complained to Moses saying, "If only the LORD had let us die in Egypt. Look, now we are going to starve in the wilderness." And God rained down bread from heaven. The LORD literally provided daily bread. As the people continued their journey in the wilderness, once again they ran out of water, and once again they complained to Moses that they had no water. The people of Israel argued with Moses and tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord here with us or not?" And once again, God provided water for the people.

Passage: Exodus 13:17-18; 14:15-31; 15:13

Observation (look at the text):

- Read Exodus 13:17-18.
 - What road or pathway did God lead the people of Israel on?
 - Where did God lead them?
- Read Exodus 14:13-31.
 - v. 13-14. God's people were trapped by the Red Sea as the Army of Egypt pursued them. What instruction did Moses give the people by the Red Sea?
 - v. 15. What instruction did God give Moses?
 - v.16-22. What did God do for His people at the Red Sea? How did He protect them?
 - v. 23-30. What did God do to the army that was chasing the people of Israel?
 - v. 31 How did God's people respond?
- Read Exodus 15:13.
 - How does God lead His people?

Interpretation (understand what it means):

- Ex 13:17-18. The NLT says God led the people of Israel, God's people, "in a roundabout way." Why did God lead His people this way?
- Ex. 14:4. Why did God lead His people to the Red Sea?
- Ex. 14:13-15. Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid, the Lord will fight for you, stay calm." And God told Moses to "Get moving!" Do you think we are able to stay calm and get moving in the face of a fearful situation? Why or why not?
- Ex. 14:16-31. Why did God lead His people through the Red Sea? As they were starting their journey to the promised land, what did they learn about God?
- Ex. 15:13. Why is it important to know God leads His people in love and strength (might)?

Application (apply the Word of God to life):

- Ex 13:17-18. Sometimes God's leading just doesn't make any sense. Is He leading you in a roundabout way right now? How can you apply this principle from Exodus 13 to follow God's leading?
- Ex. 14:16-31 After leading the people the long way, they were trapped by the Red Sea. Then God did a miracle and they walked on dry land through the middle of the sea. When you face what looks like an impossible situation in life, what can you learn and apply from how God led His people to and through the Red Sea?

- Ex. 15:13. What “Red Sea” impossible situation do you need God to lead you in love and strength? Tell Him about it. Ask Him to lead you in His unfailing love and to guide you in His strength. Ask your small group to pray for you and this impossible situation. (see Luke 1:37)
- Self-Study: Read Exodus 15-17 this week. Are there any areas in your heart or thought life or in the words you speak that bring complaints against the LORD? Consider God’s goodness to you in the past and thank Him for all He has done. Ask Him to forgive you and to help you to continue forward in His love and strength.

