

The Journey: "Out of Egypt"

Exodus 14:10-14, 21-22

2/25/24

Discussion Guide

Warm Up

Check in with everyone and see how they are doing, especially those facing a desert currently.

Follow up question: So far, any takeaways or insights you never saw before?

Passage:

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

¹³ Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

1. In Deuteronomy 8:2 God called the desert wanderings a "test." Have you ever thought of life as being a test given to us by God to see what is in our hearts?
2. Share a time when you were tested? Is there a difference between being tested and being tempted?
3. Why did God create world where adversity is woven into its very fabric? Everything grows through resistance.
4. *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* James 2:4

Why would James phrase it that way? In what ways are trials beneficial for us?

5. What accomplishment are you the proudest of in your life?
6. What's the worst "pickle" you've ever gotten yourself into and how did you get out of it? (We are our own worst enemies at times!)
7. Share a time when you experienced incredible adversity caused by another person and not yourself. Was God able to use it so that it worked in your favor?
8. Hebrews 12:7 gives us another reason to *"consider it pure joy"* when we experience hardships. What is it?
9. Have you heard the rumblings of *"Pharaoh's chariots"* lately?

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10. React to this statement: *"You can't stop the chariots from coming! But there are two things you can do: Stop looking at them and start looking to the Lord. He will provide a way out."*
11. Is this true? *"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."* 1 Corinthians 10:13
12. Has God ever shown you a "severe mercy" – He saved you from yourself when you probably would not have made the choice on your own.
13. Share ways God has treated you with special experiences where you saw God at work in your life, the life of others, and/or in the world.
14. Final thought.

End by going around the room to share a prayer request then have each person pray for the person to their right. If a person is new to the faith, they may not know how to pray so make sure everyone is comfortable praying out loud.

You can also tell people they can either pray out loud or quietly and when they are done, they can say "Amen" so the next person knows it's their turn to pray.