

July 21, 2019

# life together

SMALL GROUP  
DISCUSSION GUIDE

## **Main point from Sunday's sermon (Ex 13-18):**

God uses times of intense difficulty, lives of His people: reveal inadequacies, His faithfulness. Now let's RECAP:

## **Re-Read**

Re-read Exodus 13:17-18:27. As you do, highlight what you think are the key sentences or phrases. You'll come back to those as you evaluate the main point of the passage shortly.

## **Evaluate**

Using the key statements, sentences, or phrases you highlighted, determine as a group what you think the big idea is.

The main points from Sunday's sermon were:

**1.** Amidst our great fears, God faithfully protects His people (13:17-15:21) / **2.** Amidst our great grumblings, God faithfully provides for His people (15:22-17:7) / **3.** Amidst our great weakness, God faithfully prosperes His people (17:8-18:27)

Spend a few minutes connecting the text and the main points. Where in the text do you see the above statements and points?

## **Citations from the Church**

*"It's not about bucking up but believing God,"*  
Scotty Smith.

Often when we face fears we're given strategies that focus on what we should or shouldn't do. Scotty Smith is pointing to the reality of faith and belief in the face of fear. In what ways does this change how you can face your fears? Does faith really matter in your fears? Why or why not?

*"Without prayer nothing will bring victory. [Prayer is] the essential battle,"* Alec Motyer.

Do you agree or disagree? Why? Do you find it easy or difficult to pray? Is it your default response in life? If it's not your default, what is? Why? In what ways can you make prayer a more central aspect of your life? As a group, pray for God to stir your hearts and affections for prayer!

## **Application or Advancing the Gospel**

Exodus 13:17-18 shows that God is taking His people the long, inconvenient way out of Egypt toward the Promised Land. Why would God do that? Remember, trust isn't forged when it's easy; dependence is developed in difficulty. Maybe you're facing those moments now. What do you feel like God is teaching you?

As the song on chapter 15 fades, we see belief shift to disbelief, eagerness to unwillingness, trusting to doubting, rejoicing to fearful, worshiping to grumbling. Does that in any way reflect aspects of your life and faith? What triggers those things for you? How do you combat them?

In Exodus 17:15, Moses declares, "the LORD is my Banner!" What is the significance of that for the people then? What about now? For you? The flag raised in battle is a reminder of who you belong to, your mission, and the ultimate victory we have in Him! The cross is our Banner. Is that hopeful?

## **Praise**

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise; Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above; Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love

Oh, to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be; Let that goodness like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee; Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," R. Robinson