



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of August 3, 2014

This Week's Focus: The deliverance of Israel and the parting of the Red Sea.

This Week's Text: Exodus 13-14

*Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. **Jude 1:5***

*Jesus is the true and better Moses who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord and who mediates a new covenant. Jesus is the true and better Rock of Moses who, struck with the rod of God's justice, now gives us water in the desert. **Tim Keller***

Related Texts: 1 Corinthians 10:1-5, Jude 1:5

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- Why did God lead the Israelites the long way to Canaan?
 - What does it say about God?
 - What does it say about human nature?
- What is a biblical definition of slavery?
- Why did Joseph want his bones taken back to the promise land and what does his request show about his understanding of Israel's future?
- Discuss the purposes of God in bringing Israel to the specific spot in the wilderness.
- What was God's purpose in this last trap for Pharaoh?
- How did God get glory in this narrative?
- What was Israel's response to the providence of God in verses 11-12?
- Why do you think their faith was so weak despite having witnessed the miracles of the plagues?
- Are there times in your life that you saw God do great things but then shortly after you acted in fear and unbelief?
- Contrast the difference between the responses of Moses and the Israelites.
- What does their response say about slavery, freedom and deliverance?
- What does this narrative teach us about salvation and slavery?

- What are some of the things that enslave us?
- What natural and supernatural phenomena come into play in the Red Sea crossing?
- What happened to Pharaoh's army according to verses 24-25? What conclusion did the Egyptians come to?
- Consider for a moment what it was like to cross the Red Sea on dry ground with a wall of water on either side of you. How do you think you would have crossed? Boldly? Amazed? Afraid?
- Why were the Israelites spared the "water wall" of judgment? What does this say about God and our deliverance?

Gospel Celebration:

- The Gospel is the true way of deliverance and freedom.
- Jesus is the greater and better Moses who has come to deliver his people not from a Nation, but from sin, death and eternal separation from God.

Next Week's Text: Ephesians 5:1-8