

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

**Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

**Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

**Start Sharing & Talking About the message.** NOTE: Pastor may not cover all points in all services.

**Setting/Open:** A detour is a longer route taken to avoid a problem. Detours are deviations from the intended route. Pastor Bob presented four parts to his teaching on detours.

1. **The best route is not necessarily the shortest route.** (v17)

Who lead Israel out of Egypt? **A.** God Himself led them.

Why might God allow a detour in our life? **A.** To accomplish His purposes & goals for our life.

What is our main purpose on earth? **A.** To glorify God.

What is a question God may ask us? **A.** Is My glory safe with you – no matter what happens?

What is a detour in our lives or ministry? **A.** A time of decision. A point where we need to surrender our momentum, plans and reasonings to Jesus. A time to trust the Holy Spirit to go before us. God knows that we are not always ready to move forward. What might He be preparing? **A.** He prepares our hearts for what lies ahead in His own time by His route.

What are 2 causes of detours? **A.** Things that happen to us & the choices we make. **Ps23:4**

What should be our response to God in detours? **A.** "God I don't understand but I trust You."

2. **The best route is not necessarily the easiest route.** (v18)

Why does God not always choose the easiest route for us? **A.** It may not be the best route for the ultimate goal - our victory. **Point:** God does not show us all the details ahead of time.

**Ask ourselves:** Am I letting God lead, or am I pulling Him along for my own agenda/plans?

3. **Biblical Examples of detours.**

**Jacob** left home for 20-years and never saw his mother after he left. **David** had many detours between going from being a shepherd to becoming king. **Philip** had a fruitful ministry and then was called to the desert to witness to an Ethiopian eunuch and then beamed to Azotus, 15-miles away. **Paul** on his second missionary journey was twice forbidden by the Holy Spirit from going where he intended. **Point:** Some detours are caused by people, and some are divine, all foreseen by God. Detours are for our good. **Rom 8:28**

4. **The best route is the one containing detours in Christ.**

What are three ways God uses detours in our lives?

**A. Detours are allowed by God.** Why? **A.** For His purposes. They are not for our immediate convenience, comfort or reasonings and they are not punishment. God's roadblocks are what for us? **A.** Redirection (course correction) for His purpose and for our good. "Flow with it." Say, "God You are up to something." Ask, what can I learn from the detour?

**B. Detours sometimes are God's protection over us.** From what? **A.** Something that could be hurtful, destructive or even deadly down the road. We can't see what is down the road – (a bridge may be out) but God does.

**C. Detours are used by God to mature us** - to develop what? **A.** Godly character so we are mature and ready when we get to "point B", where we meet Jesus.

**Start Praying & Start Doing.** Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (2) Encourage your group to read ahead. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEGroups

## Talk it over | week 4

discussion | study

Detours Are Not Roadblocks

Exodus 13:17-22

Pastor Bob Claycamp