

Showdown in Egypt: Problems Leaving Town

Exodus 13:17-15:21

Message to Conversation Guide

1. Share with the group if you have ever had difficulty leaving town. Has there ever been any problem that threatened your travel plans?
2. What did Pharaoh do when he realized he was really losing the Israelites from his labor force? What measures did he take to bring them back to Egypt?

Exodus 14:1-9

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 “Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3 Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’

4 And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” So the Israelites did this.

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!” 6 So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him.

7 He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. 8 The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. 9 The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon. NIV

3. Discuss the spiritual principal in Pharaoh trying to bring Israel back to Egypt. The principal is that the devil, demons and our flesh always seek to bring us back to the place of bondage we escaped from. Read the verses below that speak of struggles and battles as we move forward in our faith.

2 Timothy 4:7

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. NIV

1 Cor. 15:32

32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” NIV

Eph. 6:12

12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. NIV*

4. How does the Egyptians' pursuit of seeking to bring Israel back parallel with water baptism?

1 Cor. 10:1-5

1 *For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3 They all ate the same spiritual food 4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. NIV*

Romans 6:3-7

3 *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. NIV (Also see **Galatians 2:20**)*

5. How long did it take for the Red Sea to part? What is the significance of this in understanding how miracles sometimes occur?

Exodus 14:21

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, NIV*

6. What was the response of the Israelites after the Egyptians were destroyed? What is the lesson for us after God does something amazing for us?

Exodus 15:1

1 *Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. NIV*