



EXODUS

YHWH GOES TO WAR!

Small Group Guide: "The Final Plague"

Sermon Series: EXODUS: YHWH Goes to War

Text: Exodus 13-15

Key Theme: God's glory revealed through Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to help you see His glory in your circumstances and to trust His presence in every situation you face.

Icebreaker Question

When have you felt "stuck between a rock and a hard place"? How did you respond in that moment?

Key Takeaways

1. **God is the center of the story, not us.** We exist to glorify God, not for our own comfort or success.
 2. **Redemption comes at a price.** Israel was bought back from Pharaoh; we've been bought back from Satan through Christ's blood.
 3. **God sometimes puts us in vulnerable positions for His glory.** He had Israel turn back and camp by the Red Sea to demonstrate His power.
 4. **Yahweh is a warrior who fights for His people.** He doesn't just rescue us; He actively battles on our behalf.
 5. **Our response to seeing God should be: fear, belief, and worship.** This is the pattern of authentic worship.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Why did God command Israel to "turn back" to the Red Sea instead of continuing forward into the Promised Land? What does this teach us about God's purposes?
2. Read Exodus 14:13-14. What does Moses tell the people to do? How is this different from their natural response?
3. In Exodus 15:3, Israel declares "Yahweh is a man of war." How does this answer Pharaoh's question from earlier in Exodus: "Who is Yahweh?"

Personal Reflection

4. The pastor challenged us to stop viewing our lives from a "self-centered perspective." When you face difficulties, is your first thought typically "Why is this happening to me?" or "How might God be glorified in this?" Why is this shift in perspective so difficult?
5. Exodus 14:19-20 describes how God moved from leading Israel to protecting them, standing between them and their crisis. Can you share a time when you experienced God's protection in a difficult situation?
6. The Israelites could only see "the glory of God" when He stood between them and their crisis. How can we train ourselves to see God's glory in the midst of our troubles rather than focusing only on the problem?

Going Deeper

7. The pastor said, "Sometimes God makes us suffer for His glory." How do you reconcile this truth with God's love and goodness? (Consider passages like Romans 8:28, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 4:12-13)
 8. Exodus 13:1-2 establishes that God has a claim on Israel—they belong to Him because He redeemed them. How should understanding that we've been "bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) change the way we live?
 9. The Israelites responded to God's deliverance with immediate worship (Exodus 15). What's the connection between seeing who God truly is and authentic worship? How is this different from worship that focuses on our needs and feelings?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Reframe Your Prayers

When you face a difficulty this week, instead of praying "God, fix this" or "God, get me out of this," pray "God, be glorified in this." Journal about how this changes your perspective.

Option 2: Remember Your Redemption

Spend time each day this week reflecting on what Christ paid to redeem you. Write down specific ways this should impact how you live, knowing you belong to Him.

Option 3: Worship in Crisis

If you're currently in a difficult situation, follow Israel's example: identify what God has revealed about Himself in your circumstances, and respond with worship (through prayer, journaling, or song).

Group Activity Ideas

- **Create a "Yahweh is a Warrior" reminder:** Have each person write Exodus 15:3 on a card to place somewhere they'll see it daily when facing spiritual battles.
- **Share testimonies:** Take time for members to share stories of when God fought for them or was glorified through their suffering.
- **Worship together:** Close your time by reading Exodus 15:1-18 together as a declaration of who God is.

Closing Reflection

The pastor said: "When you find yourself in a vulnerable position, you're not vulnerable... Yahweh, the man of war, stands with you."

Reflection Question: What would change in your life if you truly believed that Yahweh the Warrior is always with you, fighting for you?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for group members who are currently "between a rock and a hard place"
- Ask God to help you see His glory rather than focusing on your crisis

- Pray for faith to trust God's presence in uncomfortable situations
 - Ask God to shift your perspective from self-centered to God-centered
 - Pray for the pastor as he ministers in the Dominican Republic
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For Next Week

Read Exodus 16-17 and consider: How does God continue to reveal Himself to Israel in the wilderness? What does their response teach us about human nature and God's patience?

Additional Resources

- **Memory Verse:** "The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name." (Exodus 15:3)
- **Further Study:** Psalm 77:16-20 (poetic description of the Red Sea crossing)
- **Worship Song Suggestion:** Songs that focus on God as our defender and warrior