SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Nov. 1st, 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Table

This space is meant to practice presence as a small group. Use this time to create space around the table where you journey each week to move from neighbours to family. This can look like everyone bringing their favourite treat or having coffee/tea together. You can even use the question below as a starter for conversation.

Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)

- If you were to show someone around your hometown, what is the first place that you would take them to that has meaning?

Scripture

This section contains the scripture(s) and an overview of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained to help those remember the sermon. We believe that God's Word shapes us as we hear the Word and respond to it. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

Scripture

Exodus 13:17-22

13 17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." 18 So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle. 19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place." 20 After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. 21 By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Exodus 14:10-31

14 10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the

Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" 13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." 15 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. 17 I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18 The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen." 19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. 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, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 24 During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25 He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." 26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." 27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward[c] it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. 29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 30 That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. 31 And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Overview

This fall, we have started a new series in the book of Exodus called Still, God. After 430 years as foreigners in the land of Egypt, the Israelites were now liberated from slavery and moving towards the Promised Land. However, this would be a season of journeying and a time of formation for the nation of Israel to recognize Yahweh as their God. As the people journey out of Egypt, God's presence becomes manifest among his people as a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire by night to lead them. The tension in the narrative begins to rise as Pharaoh decides that he made a mistake and wants Israel captured to be slaves again. In this moment, the people of Israel begin to complain and blame Moses for their current predicament. It's in this moment that we see God part the Red Sea (a reversal of the creation story where He brings the water together) and the Egyptians come to face their consequences from God whereas Israel comes to face God as their Saviour.

The story of Exodus is both God redeeming His people from slavery (just like Jesus would accomplish) and it's a story of God's presence to and with His people. God knew that His people would be drawn back to the comfort of their previous life, that they would wander and sin against Him. And God still chooses His people out of His love and faithfulness for them. Our challenge as followers of Jesus is that we like to focus on the end results rather than the journey by which we are formed.

Discussion

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does the passage foreshadow that is to come in the narrative of the Bible? (More than one).

Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)

- The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night were visible, tangible signs of God's presence and guidance. What are some of the ways you have personally experienced or recognized God's presence and guidance during an uncertain or difficult season?
- When Pharaoh's army approached, Israel's fear quickly turned into blame directed at Moses. The sermon noted this is a natural human response, to assign fault or blame when circumstances feel threatening. Where do you see this tendency in yourself?

Practice + Prayer

This is the space where we lean into being imperfect practitioners of Jesus. The practice and prayer are opportunities to encounter Jesus, to obey His Word and to live into being a flourishing community centred on Jesus. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice: How will I trust Him today, even with the long route? Where am I prone to wander? Where am I unsettled?

- Take time this week to prayerfully reflect on these questions.
- Ask God to bring to mind and focus on the specific fear in your life.
- Be sure to take time to listen to the response of God as you ask these questions. What might be the promise of faithfulness He is extending to you?

Prayer:
Almighty God, we acknowledge and declare that you are loving and faithful. May we trust you with the long route. Grant us the courage to respond to you hour-by-hour and day-by-day, with faithful obedience in every area of life. In Jesus name, Amen.

Intercessory Prayer

In this last space, take time to seek God and invite Him to work the lives of your group. You can split into pairs, guys/girls, whole group, or whatever works. The important part is that you create space for everyone to pray if their comfortable.