

Small Group Guide: The Red Sea Crossing

Based on Exodus 14

OPENING PRAYER & ICEBREAKER

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you felt "between a rock and a hard place" in your life. How did you respond?

SERMON RECAP (5 minutes)

This week's message explored the Israelites' crossing of the Red Sea and what it teaches us about faith, baptism, and complete separation from our old life. The sermon highlighted how the Israelites went from boldly leaving Egypt to being terrified when they saw Pharaoh's army approaching, and how God used this impossible situation to demonstrate His power and faithfulness.

Key Verse: "*The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.*" - Exodus 14:14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part 1: From Bold to Afraid (Exodus 14:8-11)

- 1. The Israelites went from "high-handing it" (praising boldly) to being terrified in just two verses.** When have you experienced a similar shift from confidence in God to fear? What triggered that change?
- 2. Why do you think we forget God's past faithfulness so quickly when facing new challenges?** What are some of God's "plagues" or miracles in your own life that you tend to forget?
- 3. The Israelites said it would have been better to stay slaves in Egypt than die in the wilderness.** Have you ever been tempted to

return to your "old life" when following God got difficult? What made staying in Egypt seem safer?

Part 2: Walking by Faith, Not by Sight

4. **The sermon shared the story of the doctor who said his five senses told him there was no God.** In what areas of your life are you currently trusting your physical senses more than God's promises?
5. **Moses told the people: "Do not fear. Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord."** What does it practically look like to "stand still" when everything in you wants to panic or take control?
6. **Discuss the four phases of learning from a rabbi:**
 - I do, you watch
 - I do, you help
 - You do, I help
 - You do, I watch
7. Where do you think you are in your spiritual journey with these phases? Where would you like to be?

Part 3: The Meaning of Baptism

7. **The sermon explained three aspects of baptism:**
 - **Into Moses** = Identification with Christ
 - **In the Cloud** = Covering of the Holy Spirit
 - **Through the Sea** = Complete separation from old life
8. Which of these three aspects is hardest for you to fully embrace and why?
9. **"The waters that saved Israel also drowned their enemies."** What does it mean that there's "no going back to Egypt"? What are some "Egypt" (old patterns, sins, relationships) that Christians are tempted to return to?
10. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.** If we're truly "new creatures," why do we still struggle with old patterns? How can we live more fully as the new creation we are?

Part 4: Facing Impossible Situations

10. **George Mueller never asked anyone for money, only prayed, and God provided for 10,000 orphans.** What keeps most of us from living with that level of faith? What would need to change in your life to trust God like that?

11. The quote from Elisabeth Elliot: "Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them." Where do you typically take your questions and doubts? How can we better take them to God?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

✓ **God sometimes leads us to impossible places to teach us to trust Him completely**

✓ **Walking by faith means following even when we can't see the outcome**

✓ **Baptism represents complete identification with Christ and separation from our old life**

✓ **The Holy Spirit's presence never leaves us—we just need to acknowledge and depend on it**

✓ **There's no going back to Egypt—God has closed that door behind us**

✓ **God transforms obstacles into pathways for those who trust Him**

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Identify Your "Egypt"

- Write down one area where you're still living like you're in Egypt (old patterns, fears, dependencies)
- Pray specifically for God to help you leave it behind
- Share your struggle with one trusted person for accountability

Option 2: Practice "Standing Still"

- Identify one current situation where you're tempted to panic or control
- Instead of immediately acting, spend 15 minutes in prayer asking God to show you His way
- Journal what God reveals or how your perspective changes

Option 3: Remember God's Faithfulness

- Create a "memorial stones" list of 5-10 times God has provided or come through for you
- When fear or doubt comes this week, read your list and thank God
- Share one of these stories with someone who needs encouragement

Option 4: Walk in Your New Identity

- Each morning this week, declare: "I am a new creation in Christ. The old has passed away."
- Identify one behavior or thought pattern from your "old life" and actively replace it with a new one
- Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you throughout the day of who you are in Christ

PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray together for:

- Faith to follow God even when the path seems impossible
- Courage to leave "Egypt" behind and not look back
- Eyes to see God's presence (the cloud and fire) leading us
- Strength to stand still and trust when we want to panic
- Hearts that truly believe we are new creations in Christ
- Specific "Red Sea moments" group members are facing

CLOSING REFLECTION

"Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them."
— Elisabeth Elliot

Final Question: What is one question or fear you need to bring to God this week instead of trying to figure it out on your own?

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Exodus 15-17 in preparation for the next session, paying attention to:

- How the Israelites respond after crossing the Red Sea
- The first challenges they face in the wilderness
- How God provides for their needs

Group Leader Note: Be sensitive to group members who may be in genuine crisis situations. While encouraging faith, also provide practical support and resources as needed. Faith doesn't mean ignoring real needs —it means trusting God while taking wise action.