

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"CORPORATE WORSHIP" | EXODUS 15 | PASTOR BRIAN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

Which instrument in a band is the best to play?

"The Lord Who Triumphs" - (Exodus 15:1-21)

The Israelites sang praises to God after seeing the Egyptian army defeated by God. How does God fighting for His people produce worship?

"The Lord Who Heals and Refreshes" - (Exodus 15: 22-27)

Soon after God's victory over the Egyptians, the people are complaining to Moses about bitter water. Why are people quick to complain? What does it say about God when He changes the waters to being sweet and leads them to an oasis?

"Everyone Should Sing to the Lord" - (Colossians 3:16)

This passage has the first song recorded in scripture and the Israelites sang together. What are the benefits to singing praises to God? Why do many people today struggle with singing praise songs?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

In this passage we see people praise God for an amazing victory, and 3 days into the wilderness the same people doubt God and complain to Him. When they focused on their circumstances, they worried and grumbled. When they focused on who God is, they worshipped. Where is your focus lately? Have you asked the Holy Spirit to sing through you?

Corporate Worship

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Thank You Lasters. Mission's Prayer. CFLC-Back to School. 4th July.
- B. Slide6 Video Production Employment Opportunity - Full Time, apply on the website only (very bottom of home-page) [Very detailed Job Description]
- C. Slide7 This Wed Night - 2nd in our Series, *It Takes wonder To Worship*. AP
- D. Prayer: *God be our strength, our song, and our salvation.*

II. Slide8 Intro: Corporate Worship

- A. The Red Sea Crossing is a story of *what God can do without* our help. Sometimes we feel like our efforts are so vital to his plan.
 - 1. The stories are not recorded simply for our amazement. They are *written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope*. Rom.15:4b
 - a) *"When I wait, He fights; when He fights, He wins; when He wins, I learn."*¹
 - 2. Sometimes we need to be placed in a *spiritual cul-de-sac* where we must face and deal with our problems.
 - a) *Often*, it isn't until we are placed in an *intense pressure cooker situation* before we *look beyond ourselves, look up, and look to God in whom we place our trust*. [Red Seas *open and close* at the Lord's command, and no one else's]
- B. I titled our message **Corporate Worship**. One of the reasons for *corporate worship* is to remember *you're not alone!* (see vs.1) Whether it's *the Red Sea crossing* (Ex.14) *or us returning after Covid*, it's important to *gather together corporately* for worship. It reminds us to *connect to God* yes *intellectually but also emotionally*. The Psalms remind us of the same.

III. Slide9a THE LORD WHO TRIUMPHS (1-21) READ *from redemption to rejoicing*

¹ Charles Swindoll

- A. **Slide9b** Verses (4-10) are about *how God conquered pharaoh*. And then, (14-16) are about *how He conquered other nations*. Which is *faith singing*, singing about future events that *haven't happened yet*. They are looking out at a long road, and looking in *faith* as if it has *already happened*.
- B. (4) They sing of God being a **Warrior**, *He is a man of war* [He'll reign over His enemies]
1. *To be a God of Love, God must also be a God of War.*²
 2. When the Israelites are fleeing because of *heavily-armed professional troops*, God acts as *a Warrior* on their behalf.
- C. **Slide10** (13) *God's love on display*. Ps.136:11-15 - A responsorial song (AKA, *call-and-response*, anTIPHonal singing). [I'll read *red*, you read *green*/out loud]
- 11 He brought Israel out of Egypt. His faithful love endures forever.*
- 12 He acted with a strong hand and powerful arm. His faithful love endures forever.*
- 13 Give thanks to him who parted the Red Sea. His faithful love endures forever.*
- 14 He led Israel safely through, His faithful love endures forever. 15 but he hurled Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea. His faithful love endures forever.*
- D. (20) *Miriam the prophetess* - she's *the only woman designated as such* in the Torah.
- E. I like that the women *had brought tambourines* with them, obviously confident that they would eventually use them to *celebrate God* working on their behalf.

IV. **Slide11a THE LORD WHO HEALS (22-26)** READ *from rejoicing to complaining*

- A. **Slide11b** It is easy to sing when the circumstances are comfortable, but it takes **faith** to sing when you are suffering.
1. *And remember*, God is always able to *change your circumstances*, but He would rather *change us*.
- B. **Slide11c** The 1st Crisis in the desert (22-26) *on the way to mount Sinai*

² Dennis Prager

1. This crisis from *a lack of water*. The 2nd, *lack of food*. The 3rd, *lack of water* again. The 4th, an *attack by a desert tribe*. God's Providential care.
2. This section covers the peoples *repeated ingratitude* and *lack of faith*. No matter what God did for them, the response seems to be ... *but what have you done for me lately?* (depict our relationship w/Him?)

C. It took a whole *3 days* to forget all that He had done. (22)

1. Big picture, they end up *complaining* far more often than express *gratitude*. *That is our human nature*.
 - a) People frequently *register a complaint* with the manufacture or service provider, *but* they rarely *write a note of thanks* for a job well done.
2. We would *all do well* to consider writing a thank you note *each time* we write a letter of complaint. *Speak something positive for every time we have to say something negative*. Do you criticize your *spouse more than you complement* them? Do you show disapproval with your *children more than you show approval* with them? Do you find fault with your *coworkers more than you praise* them?

D. *Slide 11d* (25b,26) *God doesn't protect Religious People from Illness.*³

(from bad health *or* an early death)

1. This verse *doesn't say that* if the Israelites observe all of God's laws he will *never suffer any disease*. It only says God will not bring upon them any other diseases he brought upon the Egyptian's.
2. There's simply no correlation between religiosity *and* being protected from illness. [Many *non-religious and evil people* have lived long and healthy lives].
3. If God really did protect religious people from all illness, *why would any rational person not be religious?* [faith would no longer be faith. If you knew by *being religious* you would never get cancer or heart disease, *that* would not be a *faith decision*, *but* a *healthcare decision*]
4. We have seen those who hold to the belief, *that real-holy people don't get sick*, is that it leads to an *unsympathetic, even judgmental, response* like

³ Exodus, Dennis Prager, pg.178.

*If they only had **deeper faith** they wouldn't have gotten such a disease.*
Which makes the *victim* of cancer or heart attack, *doubly victimized*.

V. Slide12 **THE LORD WHO REFRESHES (27)** *from complaining to refreshing*

A. I think He ends with this vs to show us that *Life is not always battles & bitter waters*.

1. God brings us to *refreshing oasis* from time to time, *and* for this we should *praise Him*. *But* remember *we cannot Linger at Elim*. We are pilgrims, not residence.

VI. Slide13a **EVERYONE SHOULD SING TO THE LORD**

A. [1] **WE ARE MADE TO SING**

1. This is the *1st song in the Bible*. *And it should be a pattern for true worship*. For it emphasizes *the Lord, who He is, and what He has done for His people*. [they all *learned* it, *rehearsed* it, and *sang* it]
2. In *Rev.15:3,4* it mentions *the Song of Moses* [1st song in scripture] & *the Song of the Lamb* [the last 1].

B. *Did you see how God is into Content*. This is *rich with lyrics*.

1. Worship isn't about *mood music*. Like Peter Frampton's, *Oh baby I love your way* (every day).
2. They were singing about *God's salvation* and *His judgment*. *His mercy* and *His sovereignty*.
3. Slide13b Our praise should come from *the Holy Spirit within us*.
 - a) Eph.5:18-20 NLT *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.*
4. Slide13c Our praise should be based on *the Scripture*.
 - a) Col.3:16 NLT *Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.*

(1) Put these 2 together, *we should worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.*

John 4:24

C. *Good music is portable theology.* It's take-home theology. You're able to go back all week long and sing these truths. *Tony Merida*

D. *But I don't have a good voice!* listen up ... we don't sing to God *because we have good voices*, *but because you've been saved*, *because He has just done something radical in your life*, *because you just got overwhelmed by His love.*

1. That's why we are to sing.

E. *But I don't like to sing!* Well, in Rev.5, *Everyone is singing unto the Lamb.*

1. If you don't like singing, *you have a long road ahead of you.*

Actually, the only place where there *isn't going to be singing*, is **hell**.

2. So we don't sing because we have a good voice *we sing because of what God has done for us.*

F. *Slide14 [2] SING ABOUT HIM and TO HIM*

1. (1-5) *Sing about the Lord.* We sing **about** Him **and** what He **has done**.

"My strength, my song, my salvation."

2. (6) Shifts to *personal pronoun*, *Your right hand, O Lord.*

a) So they sing **about** Him **and to** Him. [we'll do the same in a few minutes]

G. *Slide15 [3] THEY SING ABOUT HIS GLORY AND HIS SALVATION*

1. Noticed how the **attributes** and **characteristics** of God are displayed.

2. **Note LORD** (is in all caps) throughout this song, meaning **Yahweh**.

a) *i.e.* the idea of *To be. God is. Self existent, self sufficient. He needs nothing, he needs no one, but still He will use anyone.*

H. *And that's what we get to put in practice now!* Our worship service is not over.

What do you have to praise Him for? About what He has done **or** is doing presently in your life? Ready to sing **about** Him & **to** Him?

1. **Prayer:** (1st song) What a **beautiful** name, what a **wonderful** name, what a **powerful** name it is.
- I. **End: Announce after service:** **Blood Drive TODAY in the gym** (walk ins welcome).
Every donor get a \$10 gas card from life stream as a TY.
There is **critical need** for blood donations!
- J. Keywords: worship, singing, song, redemption, rejoicing, complaining, refreshing, Miriam, Moses, crisis, heal, illness, bitter water.