

“Learning to Trust & Obey God”
Exodus 13¹⁷-14³¹

Opening Question(s) – Choose (a) or (b)

- a) When you left home, what possession did you take with you that reminded you most of home?
- b) What was your most frightening experience in water (boat capsize? shark alert? rogue wave?)? How did that experience affect how you felt about water?

Discussion Questions

- 1) **Read Exodus 13:17-21.** What was unexpected about the route the Israelites took out of Egypt?
- 2) Why did Moses and the Israelites take “the bones of Joseph” with them? Why not leave him buried in Egypt (cf. Gen. 50²⁴⁻²⁶; Jos. 24³²; Heb. 11²²)?
- 3) As an Israelite parent with curious children, how would you have explained the pillar of cloud and fire to your kids?
- 4) **Read Exodus 14.** What was unusual and even confusing about the navigational GPS the Israelites were using? Why do you think they followed it (v.4 “*so the Israelites did this*”)?
- 5) What was the reason for Pharaoh’s change of heart/mind from letting the people go (13¹⁷; 12³¹⁻³³) to going after them to bring them back?
- 6) How did the Israelites, “who were marching out boldly” (v.8), react to being pursued by “all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and troops” (vv.6-12)? How did Moses response compare/contrast to theirs?
- 7) When have you found yourself caught between a rock and a hard place? How did you react?
- 8) What does God want Moses to do? The Israelites? The Egyptians? Why, what is his ultimate purpose (v.4, 18)?
- 9) In addition to guiding the Israelites “so that they could travel by day or night” (13²¹), what other purpose does the LORD have for the pillar of cloud and fire (4¹⁹⁻²⁰)?
- 10) What do each of the characters in the story do (Moses, the Israelites, God, the Egyptians)? Why?
- 11) How is what God does here similar to, and different from, what he did in the creation and flood stories in Genesis?
- 12) How do the Israelites respond to what they see?

How has/does this story impact you?