

WEEK TWO (February 18 – 24, 2023)

OVERVIEW

Over 3,000 years ago, a leader named Moses found himself in a tight spot. The story opens with Moses and the children of Israel, probably about two million in strength, heading out of Egypt on their way to the Promised Land. Over and over in the Bible, God brings His people through the most difficult moments and proves Himself faithful. The amazing truth from their story is that they were right where God had led them! Pharaoh finally relents, releasing the Israelites with all their belongings. But once they actually leave, he quickly “comes to his senses” and regrets his decision. In relentless pursuit, he and his best soldiers chase after them, finding them at the shore of the Red Sea. Stuck between this army and the sea, the Israelites are overcome with fear. However, Moses reminds them that God always has a plan. God parted the Red Sea. Jesus rose from the grave. We are reminded that with God on our side, nothing is impossible.

Have you ever taken the most direct route to a destination only to have our plans frustrated by traffic, an accident on the road ahead of you, or traffic lights that didn’t work? How did it feel to be finally free of traffic and able to move on to your destination?

Share a time when God did something amazing in light of a difficulty or challenge. What happened? How did that change you?

READ

Big Idea: Our biggest problems set the stage for God’s biggest miracles.

Dig Deeper: Read and discuss God’s Word.

Before opening your Bible, ask God to prepare your mind and heart to hear His Word.

1. Read Exodus 13: 3. Why do you think he said this? Are you quick to remember all God has done for you?

2. Read Exodus 13: 17-18; Exodus 14: 10-12. God didn't take Israel on the easy route. Why?

What does it say about the nature of human hearts?

How did the Israelites respond when they saw what was happening?

Have you ever caught yourself responding to God in a similar way?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 12: 9. Where have you seen God display His power through your weakness?
4. Read Exodus 14: 13. Israel's role was to faithfully follow God, despite the fears and challenges they faced. They understandably needed Moses' encouragement. Moses encouraged them in four ways: 1. Fear not. 2. Stand firm. 3. Be Still. 4. Watch God Work. Which one of these do you need to focus on in your current circumstances?

APPLY

1. How does the Red Sea moment correlate with your story of faith in Christ? Share examples of where your faith has grown in the Lord.

2. Do you think the Lord sometimes has to take us on a more difficult route, so that we might completely trust him? Share any examples from your life.
3. As we continue the FORWARD Initiative, spend some time reading the first section of the guide, and pray about how God is calling you to fully participate in this next season as a church.
4. In what area of your life do you believe God wants you to trust Him more? How can you apply God's Word to your life in this area?

PRAY

Talk to God and listen to what He tells you.

Spend time thanking God for providing the gift of salvation. As you pray together, lift up our ministers, elders, deacons, and ministry volunteers. Spend time asking God to grow our faith as we move forward as a church family.

READING PLAN: Close your meeting with these short readings.

- Psalm 23: 1-4
- Psalm 32: 8
- Isaiah 64: 4
- Isaiah 40: 31
- Psalm 40: 1-2
- Matthew 8: 22
- John 8: 11-12