

JOURNEY

THROUGH THE BIBLE

2018
SUMMER
CURRICULUM

part 1



MAKING DISCIPLES
WHO MAKE
DISCIPLES BY LIVING
LIFE TOGETHER

Content Overview

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may	27	No Evening Service
	28	GM Offices Closed
	30	GM Youth: 5th Qtr

june	4-8	VBS (Vacation Bible School)
	4-8	GM Youth: The Mix
	10	101 Starting Point
	10	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
	16	GM Singles: Rangers Game
	17	Father's Day / No Evening Service
	22	Parent's Night Out
	23-27	GM Youth: Summer Camp Glorietta, NM
24	102 Next Steps Class	

july	4	GM Office Closed
	8	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
	16-23	Peru Mission Trip
	27	Parents Night Out
	29	GM Quarterly Meeting
	7/30-8/2	GM Kids: Preteen Kids Camp

august	4	GM Men's Breakfast
	10	SS/LG Party Night
	12	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
	19	FOCUS Event
	24	Parent's Night Out
	25	GM Single's BBQ
	26	LIFE GROUP KICK OFF FOR FALL
	29	GM Youth: 5th Quarter / Fall Kick-Off

september	2	No Evening Service
	3	GM Offices Closed
	4	First Day of Joy School
	4 - 8	GM Men: Life Riders to Colorado
	5	Awana Kick-off
	9	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
	10	Life Group / Sunday School Party Night
	15	GM Women: Beth Moore Simulcast
	16	101 Starting Point
	26	GM Youth: See You at the Pole
	28	Parent's Night Out
	30	All Church: Annual Business Meeting

GENESIS 45

“Joseph could no longer keep his composure in front of all his attendants, so he called out, ‘Send everyone away from me!’ No one was with him when he revealed his identity to his brothers.² But he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and also Pharaoh’s household heard it.³ Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph! Is my father still living?’ But they could not answer him because they were terrified in his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Please, come near me,’ and they came near. ‘I am Joseph, your brother,’ he said, ‘the one you sold into Egypt.’⁵ And now don’t be worried or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because God sent me ahead of you to preserve life.⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there will be five more years without plowing or harvesting.⁷ God sent me ahead of you to establish you as a remnant within the land and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.⁸ Therefore it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household, and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

⁹ ‘Return quickly to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: ‘God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me without delay.¹⁰ You can settle in the land of Goshen and be near me—you, your children, and grandchildren, your sheep, cattle, and all you have.¹¹ There I will sustain you, for there will be five more years of famine. Otherwise, you, your household, and everything you have will become destitute.’¹² Look! Your eyes and my brother Benjamin’s eyes can see that it is I, Joseph, who am speaking to you.¹³ Tell my father about all my glory in Egypt and about all you have seen. And bring my father here quickly.’

¹⁴ Then Joseph threw his arms around Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder.¹⁵ Joseph kissed each of his brothers as he wept, and afterward his brothers talked with him.

¹⁶ When the news reached Pharaoh’s palace, ‘Joseph’s brothers have come,’ Pharaoh and his servants were pleased.¹⁷ Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘Tell your brothers, ‘Do this: Load your animals and go on back to the land of Canaan.¹⁸ Get your father and your families, and come back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you can eat from the richness of the land.’¹⁹ You are also commanded, ‘Do this: Take wagons from the land

of Egypt for your young children and your wives and bring your father here. ²⁰ Do not be concerned about your belongings, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours."

²¹ The sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them wagons as Pharaoh had commanded, and he gave them provisions for the journey. ²² He gave each of the brothers changes of clothes, but he gave Benjamin 300 pieces of silver and five changes of clothes. ²³ He sent his father the following: 10 donkeys carrying the best products of Egypt and 10 female donkeys carrying grain, food, and provisions for his father on the journey. ²⁴ So Joseph sent his brothers on their way, and as they were leaving, he said to them, 'Don't argue on the way.'

²⁵ So they went up from Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. ²⁶ They said, 'Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt!' Jacob was stunned, for he did not believe them. ²⁷ But when they told Jacob all that Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to transport him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

²⁸ Then Israel said, 'Enough! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go to see him before I die.'"



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

H
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Joseph was sold by his brothers to Midianite traders, who then sold him to Potiphar, the captain of the guards in Pharaoh's palace. Joseph found much favor with Potiphar, but his wife tried to seduce Joseph. He fled from her advancements until she began to take offense and set Joseph up by lying to the guards and accusing him of attempted rape. This caused Joseph to be thrown into prison. While in prison, Joseph met Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker, and precisely interpreted their dreams. Eventually, the cupbearer was released to serve Pharaoh again. After awhile, Pharaoh began having bad dreams that could not be interpreted by his magicians. The cupbearer remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him. Pharaoh then sent for Joseph, and when he accurately interpreted Pharaoh's dreams to mean seven years of abundance and seven years of famine in all the land, the ruler elevated Joseph to be second in command over all of Egypt. During his first seven years, Joseph married and had two sons. He arranged for the Egyptians to harvest all the food and stockpile all the grain so that they would be able to sustain during the seven years of famine. When the famine hit, Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt to buy grain, but they didn't recognize their brother. The second time they came, Joseph had all their money put back into their bags and planted a silver cup in the bag of Benjamin, his youngest brother, so that he would have to stay with Joseph "and work as his slave". But Judah pleaded with Joseph saying their father had already lost his favorite son and to lose the only other son from his favorite, deceased wife would surely kill him.



U

There are times in life when we feel like our whole world is falling apart. Even events and circumstances that are out of our control can make us feel worthless or shameful. But God, in His sovereignty, takes all things and works them for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Joseph's life is a great example of this verse. During many years of mistreatment and undeserved hardships, God was always with him, and through Joseph's faithfulness and obedience, God used him to fulfill His promise made to Abraham, Joseph's great-grandfather, using his family to bless many nations.

As you are listening today, be thinking of how God may be using the hardships in your life to fulfill His promises.

KEY VERSE

Romans 8:28

"We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose."

SUMMARY

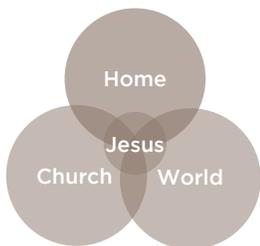
God's plans are not dictated by human actions

God's forgiveness and redemption are complete for those who love Him, no matter how great the offense

Never lose hope that God's plans for you are good

God's plans will be revealed in His timing, not ours

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

GENESIS 45

JOSEPH REVEALS HIS IDENTITY



12 MIN

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

What was Joseph's response to his brothers when he revealed his identity to them?



How did God use Joseph's hardships and trials to accomplish His purpose?

How does this story speak to you personally about the power of forgiveness?



What are some ways God may be using (or has used) the hardships in your life to fulfill His promises?

What are some feelings you may be harboring toward someone who has hurt you, and how does God want you to handle this situation?



Consider negative attitudes you have toward someone who has hurt you. Ask God to remove these feelings and reveal how He wants you to use these experiences to further His kingdom.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

45 MIN

10 MIN

CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

EXODUS 3:1 - 4:17

"Meanwhile, Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² Then the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush. As Moses looked, he saw that the bush was on fire but was not consumed. ³ So Moses thought: I must go over and look at this remarkable sight. Why isn't the bush burning up?

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called out to him from the bush, 'Moses, Moses!'

'Here I am,' he answered.

⁵ 'Do not come closer,' He said. 'Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶ Then He continued, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of My people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors, and I know about their sufferings. ⁸ I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them from that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the territory of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. ⁹ The Israelites' cry for help has come to Me, and I have also seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ Therefore, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.'

¹¹ But Moses asked God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?'

¹² He answered, 'I will certainly be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will all worship God at this mountain.'

¹³ Then Moses asked God, 'If I go to the Israelites and say to them: The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what should I tell them?'

¹⁴ God replied to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.' ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, 'Say this to the Israelites: Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.

¹⁶ 'Go and assemble the elders of Israel and say to them: Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, has appeared to me and said: I have paid close attention to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷ And I have promised you that I will bring you up from the misery of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁸ They will listen to what you say. Then you, along with the elders of Israel, must go to the king of Egypt and say to him: Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Now please let us go on a three-day trip into the wilderness so that we may sacrifice to Yahweh our God.

¹⁹ 'However, I know that the king of Egypt will not allow you to go, unless he is forced by a strong hand. ²⁰ I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles that I will perform in it. After that, he will let you go. ²¹ And I will give these people such favor in the sight of the Egyptians that when you go, you will not go empty-handed. ²² Each woman will ask her neighbor and any woman staying in her house for silver and gold jewelry, and clothing, and you will put them on your sons and daughters. So you will plunder the Egyptians.'

4 ¹ Then Moses answered, 'What if they won't believe me and will not obey me but say, 'The Lord did not appear to you?'

² The Lord asked him, 'What is that in your hand?'

'A staff,' he replied.

³ Then He said, 'Throw it on the ground.' He threw it on the ground, and it became a snake. Moses ran from it, ⁴ but the Lord told him, 'Stretch out your hand and grab it by the tail.' So he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand. ⁵ 'This will take place,' He continued, 'so they will believe that Yahweh, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.'

⁶ In addition the Lord said to him, 'Put your hand inside your cloak.' So he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, his hand was diseased, white as snow. ⁷ Then He said, 'Put your hand back inside your cloak.' He put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, it had again become like the rest of his skin. ⁸ 'If they will not believe you and will not respond to the evidence of the first sign, they may believe the evidence of the second sign. ⁹ And if they don't believe even these two signs or listen to what you say, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the Nile will become blood on the ground.'

¹⁰ But Moses replied to the Lord, 'Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent—either in the past or recently or since You have been speaking to Your servant—because I am slow and hesitant in speech.'

¹¹ Yahweh said to him, 'Who made the human mouth? Who makes him mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, Yahweh? ¹² Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say.'

¹³ Moses said, 'Please, Lord, send someone else.'

¹⁴ Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses, and He said, 'Isn't Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, he is on his way now to meet you. He will rejoice when he sees you. ¹⁵ You will speak with him and tell him what to say. I will help both you and him to speak and will teach you both what to do. ¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you. He will be your spokesman, and you will serve as God to him. ¹⁷ And take this staff in your hand that you will perform the signs with.'"



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CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

**** This is a lengthy story. For time's sake, it is optional to leave out the rebuild. ****

H
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Four hundred years had gone by since the time of Joseph and the number of Israelites had greatly increased. The Pharaoh of the time enslaved the Israelites and wanted to keep them from multiplying, so he ordered all of the male babies to be killed. Through God's grace, there was one baby's mother who saved him by putting him in a basket and floating him down the river toward the royal palace. Pharaoh's daughter found Moses in the basket and raised him as her own. Because Moses knew his birth family, he understood his Hebrew heritage and worshipped Yahweh. As he grew older, he began to see how his people were being treated and defended them to the point of killing an Egyptian that beat an Israelite. Terrified, Moses fled for his life and traveled to Midian where he married and had a child. During this time, the Pharaoh had passed away, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, hearing the groaning of His people who were enslaved. This is where we begin our story today in God's Word.



U

Moses may have thought he was going to spend the rest of his humble life in Midian as a mediocre shepherd, but God had other plans. Just when Moses was getting comfortable, God called him to one of the greatest tasks in human history. Moses went from living in royalty to a job he was raised to despise, yet that whole time God was preparing him for a life of leadership. Moses couldn't have seen that at the time, but through it all, God taught him the ways of the people who he was about to free and how to live in the wilderness so that he could lead the Israelites for the next 40 years.

As you are listening to today's story, be thinking of ways you are telling God to "choose someone else" for the task He has for you.

KEY VERSE

EXODUS 3:12

"He answered, 'I will certainly be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will all worship God at this mountain.'"

SUMMARY

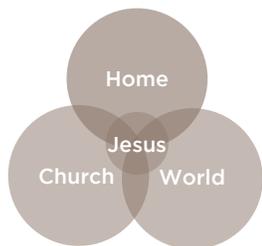
To whom much is given, much is required

God can use anyone He chooses to accomplish His mission

Obedience leads to blessing

God will fight our battles for us if we get out of His way

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

EXODUS 3:1 - 4:17

MOSES



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What was Moses' response to God when He instructed him to go to Pharaoh?

What did God say He would do to the Egyptians?

What does this story tell us about whom God chooses to use?



What are some inadequacies you feel you have that keep you from doing God's work?

What is God telling you about these "shortcomings"?

In what ways are you telling God to "choose someone else"?



Begin praying about how God wants to help you overcome your fears and insecurities about yourself so that He can fully use you to your highest potential.

PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

EXODUS 12:1-36

¹ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² 'This month is to be the beginning of months for you; it is the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they must each select an animal of the flock according to their fathers' households, one animal per household. ⁴ If the household is too small for a whole animal, that person and the neighbor nearest his house are to select one based on the combined number of people; you should apportion the animal according to what each person will eat. ⁵ You must have an unblemished animal, a year-old male; you may take it from either the sheep or the goats. ⁶ You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter the animals at twilight. ⁷ They must take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat them. ⁸ They are to eat the meat that night; they should eat it, roasted over the fire along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or cooked in boiling water, but only roasted over fire—its head as well as its legs and inner organs. ¹⁰ Do not let any of it remain until morning; you must burn up any part of it that does remain before morning. ¹¹ Here is how you must eat it: you must be dressed for travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You are to eat it in a hurry; it is the Lord's Passover.

¹² I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and strike every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, both man and beast. I am Yahweh; I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. ¹³ The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ 'This day is to be a memorial for you, and you must celebrate it as a festival to the Lord. You are to celebrate it throughout your generations as a permanent statute. ¹⁵ You must eat unleavened bread for seven days. On the first day you must remove yeast from your houses. Whoever eats what is leavened from the first day through the seventh day must be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ You are to hold a sacred assembly on the first day and another sacred assembly on the seventh day. No work may be done on those days except for preparing what people need to eat—you may do only that.

¹⁷ 'You are to observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread because on this very day I brought your divisions out of the land of Egypt. You must observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent statute. ¹⁸ You are to eat unleavened bread in the first month, from the evening of the fourteenth day of the month until the evening of the twenty-first day. ¹⁹ Yeast must not be found in your houses for seven days. If anyone eats something leavened,

that person, whether a foreign resident or native of the land, must be cut off from the community of Israel. ²⁰ Do not eat anything leavened; eat unleavened bread in all your homes.'

²¹ Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Go, select an animal from the flock according to your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. ²² Take a cluster of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and brush the lintel and the two doorposts with some of the blood in the basin. None of you may go out the door of his house until morning. ²³ When the Lord passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, He will pass over the door and not let the destroyer enter your houses to strike you.

²⁴ 'Keep this command permanently as a statute for you and your descendants. ²⁵ When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as He promised, you are to observe this ritual. ²⁶ When your children ask you, "What does this ritual mean to you?" ²⁷ you are to reply, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, for He passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and spared our homes.'" So the people bowed down and worshiped. ²⁸ Then the Israelites went and did this; they did just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹ Now at midnight the Lord struck every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, and every firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ During the night Pharaoh got up, he along with all his officials and all the Egyptians, and there was a loud wailing throughout Egypt because there wasn't a house without someone dead. ³¹ He summoned Moses and Aaron during the night and said, 'Get up, leave my people, both you and the Israelites, and go, worship Yahweh as you have asked. ³² Take even your flocks and your herds as you asked and leave, and also bless me.'

³³ Now the Egyptians pressured the people in order to send them quickly out of the country, for they said, 'We're all going to die!' ³⁴ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls wrapped up in their clothes on their shoulders.

³⁵ The Israelites acted on Moses' word and asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. ³⁶ And the Lord gave the people such favor in the Egyptians' sight that they gave them what they requested. In this way they plundered the Egyptians."



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WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

**** This is a lengthy story. For time's sake, it is optional to leave out the rebuild. ****

H
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When God spoke to Moses through a burning bush, He told him to go to Pharoah and instruct him to let His people, the Israelites, go. Moses obeyed God but Pharoah was not easily persuaded. This led God to send nine terrifying and miraculous plagues to the land of Egypt in order to prompt Pharoah to free the people from the slavery and bondage they had been in for hundreds of years. Yet Pharoah continued to make false promises, refusing to release the Israelites. Today, we will learn about the tenth and final plague that God sent to the land of Egypt, which compelled Pharoah to let His people go.

U

Oftentimes we can be so stubborn and hard-headed. Frequently through our repeated acts of rebellion, God continues to deliver us, bringing us back to the mission He has set for His purpose. Just as God rescued Noah and his family from the hands of his brother, Esau, and Joseph from many near death experiences, He continues to show us how He, and only He, can magnificently deliver His people. Today's story demonstrates how our obedience to God is rewarded. We will see how God keeps His promises, sees the hurt of His people, and rescues them. God does the fighting for us, sometimes even at a devastating cost to our enemies.

As you are listening to today's story, be thinking of how you respond when God asks you to trust Him, even if you don't understand.



KEY VERSE

EXODUS 12:13

"The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."

SUMMARY

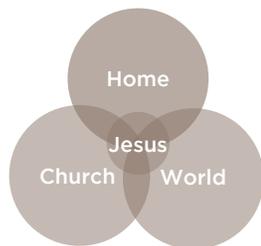
When God speaks, it is vital that we obey His commands

There is a great price to pay in rebellion toward God

God loves His people and can save them from even the most tragic circumstances

When we obey God, He delivers us from the bondage that holds us captive

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

EXODUS 12:1-36
THE PASSOVER



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

In what ways did the Israelites have to show their faith in order to be saved during the final plague?



What was the importance of the Passover ceremony to the Israelites?

How long were the Israelites told to remember the Passover?

What in your life has God "passed over" since you've trusted in Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He made for you?



Share of how you respond when God asks you to trust Him, even if you don't understand.

What are some things in your life that hold you in bondage, and how are you prepared to move forward when God delivers you from them?



Think of someone in your life who may need to hear how God delivered the Israelites in this story, and share with them the parallel it has to how God delivered you through Jesus Christ.



PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

EXODUS 14

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ² ‘Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth [pai-huh-HAI-rahth], between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. ³ For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, ‘They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’ ⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.’ And they did so.

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, ‘What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?’ ⁶ So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, ⁷ and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸ And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly. ⁹ The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

¹⁰ When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. ¹¹ They said to Moses, ‘Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ ¹³ And Moses said to the people, ‘Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.’

¹⁵ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.

¹⁶ Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.’

¹⁹ Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.'

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.' ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses."



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

After God had overwhelmed Pharoah and the Egyptians with plagues that ended in the death of all the firstborn males, Pharoah released the Israelites and quickly sent them along their way with plunder from the Egyptians. However, God did not lead the Israelites on a straight path to the Promised Land. Instead, He led them around the Philistines through the wilderness to protect them and so that they wouldn't change their minds and turn back to Egypt. The Lord guided the Israelites with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God instructed Moses to set up camp between the mountains and the sea. God told Moses He would harden Pharoah's heart again so that Pharoah would chase after the Israelites. God's plan was to display His glory through Pharoah and the entire Egyptian army.

H
.....



It is so easy to advance in life, not taking the time to seek God for His provision and plan for the future. God sees the world differently than we do. He sees the whole picture from the beginning to the end of time, and most often the path He sets for us is not smooth or straight. Whether He is protecting us or strengthening us for something that our future holds, His plan is always good and best. Today's story is just one of the many ways that God displayed His power and sovereignty to His people on their journey to the Promised Land. They saw first hand miraculous signs and wonders of God's mighty power, yet they still grumbled and complained, showing their lack of faith in the Heavenly Father. God continued to provide for them and show His faithfulness, positioning them in just a way that they would see He was their only Savior.

U

As you are listening today, be thinking of how this story relates to the way God leads you in your own life.

KEY VERSE

Exodus 14:22

"And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left."

SUMMARY

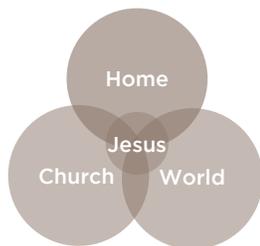
There is no situation too difficult for God

Even when things look bleak, God's plan is always good

God's faithfulness helps us conquer fear and crisis without complaining

Even when it seems like there is no way through a problem, God can make a way

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

EXODUS 14
THE RED SEA



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

How did the Israelites respond to Moses when they saw that the Egyptians were gaining on them? What was his response to them?



What was the response of the Israelites after they saw what the Lord had done for them?

What has God given to us as assurance of His presence and guidance in our lives?



Think of your life before and after knowing Christ. How does it compare with this story?

What does this story teach you personally about the way God leads you in your daily life?

How does this story affect your view about your problems?



Think of someone in your life who may be going through a difficult time and share this story with them.



PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

EXODUS 20

"Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

³ Do not have other gods besides me.

⁴ Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. ⁵ Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the fathers' iniquity, to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands.

⁷ Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God, because the Lord will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy: ⁹ You are to labor six days and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. You must not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates. ¹¹ For the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.

¹² Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ Do not murder.

¹⁴ Do not commit adultery.

¹⁵ Do not steal.

¹⁶ Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

¹⁸ All the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain surrounded by smoke. When the people saw it they trembled and stood at a distance. ¹⁹ 'You speak to us, and we will listen,' they said to Moses, 'but don't let God speak to us, or we will die.'

²⁰ Moses responded to the people, "Don't be afraid, for God has come to test you, so that you will fear him and will not sin." ²¹ And the people remained standing at a distance as Moses approached the total darkness where God was.

²² Then the Lord told Moses, 'This is what you are to say to the Israelites: You have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven. ²³ Do not make gods of silver to rival me; do not make gods of gold for yourselves.'

²⁴ Make an earthen altar for me, and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your flocks and herds. I will come to you and bless you in every place where I cause my name to be remembered. ²⁵ If you make a stone altar for me, do not build it out of cut stones. If you use your chisel on it, you will defile it. ²⁶ Do not go up to my altar on steps, so that your nakedness is not exposed on it.'"



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STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

God used Moses, a man who thought he didn't measure up, to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. When the Pharaoh released them, they wandered in the wilderness for three months, whining and complaining about their situation and claiming they'd be better off in Egypt. All the while, God provided for them over and over again, giving them water from a rock, feeding them manna from heaven, and leading them with cloud by day and fire by night. He even delivered them by parting the Red Sea for them so they could flee on dry ground, annihilating their enemies in one clean swoop. He also delivered them from attacks by the Amalekite army, all in preparation for the covenant He had with them. In today's story, we will be discussing these 10 commandments that God gave the people of Israel and future generations.

H.....



God is very constant in His Word, never waivering and never making mistakes. The Israelites of this time had adopted the belief in many gods. To add one more god to the mix was not a big deal. Actually, it was unnerving to them that God, the Father and Creator of the universe, commanded them to worship Him and Him only. As believers today, we tend to put several things first in our lives before God. Whether it be our family, work, electronics, sports, etc., we find it very difficult to "fit" God in to our schedule. But God is a jealous God. He desires a relationship with us and that we have nothing else in the way of Him. It has been said that you can tell a person's priorities by their calendar and checkbook. Every person worships something; the question is what or who is it that you worship?

U

As you're listening today, be thinking of which commandment is the most difficult for you to follow and why.

KEY VERSE

Exodus 20:2-3

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. Do not have other gods besides me."

SUMMARY

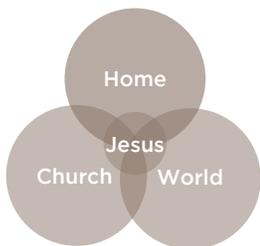
The Ten Commandments are designed to lead us to a life of holiness

If we obey all but the first command, we are in danger of missing out on an eternity with God

God wants us to follow Him out of love rather than fear

If we love God, we will obey His commands

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

WEEK
JUN 24 - 30

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

EXODUS 20 THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

12
MIN



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What do these commands reveal about God's character and His desire for us on a personal level?

What does God promise to those who keep His commands?

How does God feel about us worshipping anyone/anything else?

What are some things that come before or even take the place of God in your life?



Which commands do you find the hardest to obey, and/or why?

How do these commands help you live a consistent life that reflects God's character?



Pick the hardest command for you to obey and focus on it this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

NUMBERS 13:1-3, 25-33; 14:1-38

13 ¹ The Lord spoke to Moses: ² 'Send men to scout out the land of Canaan I am giving to the Israelites. Send one man who is a leader among them from each of their ancestral tribes.' ³ Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran at the Lord's command. All the men were leaders in Israel."

²⁵ At the end of forty days they returned from scouting out the land. ²⁶ The men went back to Moses, Aaron, and the entire Israelite community in the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh. They brought back a report for them and the whole community, and they showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ They reported to Moses: 'We went into the land where you sent us. Indeed it is flowing with milk and honey, and here is some of its fruit. ²⁸ However, the people living in the land are strong, and the cities are large and fortified. We also saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites are living in the land of the Negev; the Hethites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea and along the Jordan.'

³⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people in the presence of Moses and said, 'Let's go up now and take possession of the land because we can certainly conquer it!'

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him responded, 'We can't attack the people because they are stronger than we are!' ³² So they gave a negative report to the Israelites about the land they had scouted: 'The land we passed through to explore is one that devours its inhabitants, and all the people we saw in it are men of great size. ³³ We even saw the Nephilim there—the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim! To ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and we must have seemed the same to them.'"

14 ¹ Then the whole community broke into loud cries, and the people wept that night. ² All the Israelites complained about Moses and Aaron, and the whole community told them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why is the Lord bringing us into this land to die by the sword? Our wives and children will become plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴ So they said to one another, "Let's appoint a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole assembly of the Israelite community. ⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who scouted out the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite community: "The land we passed through and explored is an extremely good land. ⁸ If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and give it to us. ⁹ Only don't rebel against the Lord, and don't be afraid of the people of the land, for we will devour them. Their protection has been removed from them, and the Lord is with us. Don't be afraid of them!"

¹⁰ While the whole community threatened to stone them, the glory of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the tent of meeting.

¹¹ The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people despise me? How long will they not trust in me despite all the signs I have performed among them? ¹² I will strike them with a plague and de-

stroy them. Then I will make you into a greater and mightier nation than they are.”

¹³ But Moses replied to the Lord, “The Egyptians will hear about it, for by your strength you brought up this people from them. ¹⁴ They will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, Lord, are among these people, how you, Lord, are seen face to face, how your cloud stands over them, and how you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵ If you kill this people with a single blow, the nations that have heard of your fame will declare, ¹⁶ ‘Since the Lord wasn’t able to bring this people into the land he swore to give them, he has slaughtered them in the wilderness.’

¹⁷ “So now, may my Lord’s power be magnified just as you have spoken: ¹⁸ The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in faithful love, forgiving iniquity and rebellion. But he will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers’ iniquity on the children to the third and fourth generation. ¹⁹ Please pardon the iniquity of this people, in keeping with the greatness of your faithful love, just as you have forgiven them from Egypt until now.”

²⁰ The Lord responded, “I have pardoned them as you requested. ²¹ Yet as surely as I live and as the whole earth is filled with the Lord’s glory, ²² none of the men who have seen my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tested me these ten times and did not obey me, ²³ will ever see the land I swore to give their fathers. None of those who have despised me will see it. ²⁴ But since my servant Caleb has a different spirit and has remained loyal to me, I will bring him into the land where he has gone, and his descendants will inherit it. ²⁵ Since the Amalekites and Canaanites are living in the lowlands, turn back tomorrow and head for the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea.”

²⁶ Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron: ²⁷ “How long must I endure this evil community that keeps complaining about me? I have heard the Israelites’ complaints that they make against me. ²⁸ Tell them: As surely as I live—this is the Lord’s declaration—I will do to you exactly as I heard you say. ²⁹ Your corpses will fall in this wilderness—all of you who were registered in the census, the entire number of you twenty years old or more—because you have complained about me. ³⁰ I swear that none of you will enter the land I promised to settle you in, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. ³¹ I will bring your children whom you said would become plunder into the land you rejected, and they will enjoy it.

³² But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness. ³³ Your children will be shepherds in the wilderness for forty years and bear the penalty for your acts of unfaithfulness until all your corpses lie scattered in the wilderness. ³⁴ You will bear the consequences of your iniquities forty years based on the number of the forty days that you scouted the land, a year for each day. You will know my displeasure. ³⁵ I, the Lord, have spoken. I swear that I will do this to the entire evil community that has conspired against me. They will come to an end in the wilderness, and there they will die.”

³⁶ So the men Moses sent to scout out the land, and who returned and incited the entire community to complain about him by spreading a negative report about the land— ³⁷ those men who spread the negative report about the land were struck down by the Lord. ³⁸ Only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh remained alive of those men who went to scout out the land.



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

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CELEBRATION

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CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

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Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

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STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

**** This is a lengthy story. For time's sake, it is optional to leave out the rebuild. ****

H
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In our last story at Mount Sinai, God specifically gave instructions to the Israelites about how to live in the new land He had planned for them. The people were more than ready to complete their journey. They had been wandering in the wilderness just over a year since their rescue from slavery in Egypt. Through God's specific instructions, Moses relayed to the people how to build a portable tabernacle (or a tent of meeting) that would be a holy place where God dwelled among them. When they completed the construction, they celebrated and observed the Passover, the first since the exodus in Egypt. The Israelites repeatedly saw God move miraculously before their very eyes, yet, almost immediately, they were complaining, rebelling, and questioning God's plan all over again.



U

Everyday we see signs of God working in and around us, but it is so easy to get off track when a situation comes up and we feel like we can handle it on our own. In today's story, we will observe the difference in seeing a situation through the eyes of faith and through the eyes of doubt. God's promises are faithful, and when He says He will do something, He will do it in His time. God promised to deliver His people to the Promised Land. He did not tell them when but that it would happen. When we see a situation through the eyes of fear and doubt, we think it's too hard and cannot be done. But God shows us in this story that He is so much bigger than any problem or circumstance we will ever face.

As you are listening today, be thinking of opportunities in your life that God wants you to pursue but all you see are roadblocks.

KEY VERSE

Numbers 14:11

"The Lord said to Moses, 'How long will these people despise me? How long will they not trust in me despite all the signs I have performed among them?'"

SUMMARY

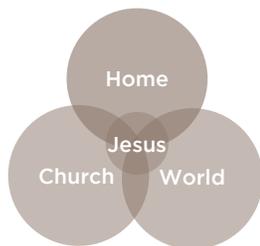
We can be sure of God's faithfulness, love, patience, and mercy

We can continue to trust God by remembering all He has done for us

Courage and faith must be combined with words and actions in order to be effective

We must always do what God has asked us to do, even if it's not a popular decision

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

NUMBERS 13:1-3, 25-33; 14:1-38

THE TWELVE SPIES



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

What did God want the twelve spies to do?



What was the report the men came back with, and how did the Israelites respond to the news?

What was unique about Moses' conversation with God in 14:11-25?

What does this story teach you personally about trusting God?



What does complaining reveal about our hearts and our faith in God?

What are some areas of your life that God wants you to pursue but all you see are roadblocks? How can you trust God more to guide you through these roadblocks?



This week, focus on God's promises. Write them down and ask Him how He wants you be a part of His plan.



PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

JOSHUA 6:1-25

"Now Jericho was strongly fortified because of the Israelites—no one leaving or entering.

² The Lord said to Joshua, 'Look, I have handed Jericho, its king, and its best soldiers over to you. ³ March around the city with all the men of war, circling the city one time. Do this for six days. ⁴ Have seven priests carry seven ram's-horn trumpets in front of the ark. But on the seventh day, march around the city seven times, while the priests blow the trumpets. ⁵ When there is a prolonged blast of the horn and you hear its sound, have all the troops give a mighty shout. Then the city wall will collapse, and the troops will advance, each man straight ahead.'

⁶ So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and said to them, 'Take up the ark of the covenant and have seven priests carry seven trumpets in front of the ark of the Lord.'

⁷ He said to the troops, 'Move forward, march around the city, and have the armed men go ahead of the ark of the Lord.'

⁸ After Joshua had spoken to the troops, seven priests carrying seven trumpets before the Lord moved forward and blew the trumpets; the ark of the Lord's covenant followed them. ⁹ While the trumpets were blowing, the armed men went in front of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard went behind the ark. ¹⁰ But Joshua had commanded the troops: 'Do not shout or let your voice be heard. Don't let one word come out of your mouth until the time I say, 'Shout!' Then you are to shout.' ¹¹ So the ark of the Lord was carried around the city, circling it once. They returned to the camp and spent the night there.

¹² Joshua got up early the next morning. The priests took the ark of the Lord, ¹³ and the seven priests carrying seven trumpets marched in front of the ark of the Lord. While the trumpets were blowing, the armed men went in front of them, and the rear guard went behind the ark of the Lord. ¹⁴ On the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

¹⁵ Early on the seventh day, they started at dawn and marched around the city seven times in the same way. That was the only day they marched around the city seven times. ¹⁶ After the seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the troops, 'Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. ¹⁷ But the city and everything in it are set apart to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and everyone with her in the house will live, because she hid the messengers we sent. ¹⁸ But keep yourselves from the things set apart, or you will be set apart for destruction. If you take any of those things, you will set apart the camp of Israel for destruction and make trouble for it. ¹⁹ For all the silver and gold, and the

articles of bronze and iron, are dedicated to the Lord and must go into the Lord's treasury.'

²⁰ So the troops shouted, and the trumpets sounded. When they heard the blast of the trumpet, the troops gave a great shout, and the wall collapsed. The troops advanced into the city, each man straight ahead, and they captured the city. ²¹ They completely destroyed everything in the city with the sword—every man and woman, both young and old, and every ox, sheep, and donkey.

²² Joshua said to the two men who had scouted the land, 'Go to the prostitute's house and bring the woman out of there, and all who are with her, just as you swore to her.' ²³ So the young men who had scouted went in and brought out Rahab and her father, mother, brothers, and all who belonged to her. They brought out her whole family and settled them outside the camp of Israel.

²⁴ They burned the city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house. ²⁵ However, Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, her father's family, and all who belonged to her, because she hid the messengers Joshua had sent to spy on Jericho, and she still lives in Israel today."



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

In our last story, we saw that God was very clear when He told Moses that those who tested and disobeyed Him would not enter the Promised Land. Even Moses, who was God's faithful servant, wavered in his faith at one point, and God only allowed him to see, but not enter, the Promised Land. Prefacing our story today, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years. During that time, the people taught the new generation to obey God's laws so that they might see the land He promised them. Moses and an entire generation of Israelites had died, and Joshua was now their leader. Joshua did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and he found favor in the eyes of the people. Joshua sent spies once again to check out Jericho, the land they were to inhabit. This time they stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab who protected them when the king of Jericho heard of their presence in the city. In return for her kindness, the men promised her they would not kill her and her family when they came to conquer the city.

H
.....



Prior to this story, Jericho was considered one of the oldest and strongest cities, symbolizing military strength and power. The Caananite inhabitants thought it to be invincible, but God is much more powerful. Today's story is very similar to our lives now. God promised Joshua that the city of Jericho was already handed to him before the battle had even begun. We have an enemy who wants to destroy us, but Christ's death on the cross and resurrection is our assurance that no matter how hard life gets for us, we have already won the battle. Trusting God's plan may not always make sense, but it will always lead to victory!

U

As you're listening today, be thinking of the promises God has given you and the walls that may be keeping you from them.

KEY VERSE

Joshua 1:9

"Be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

JOSHUA 6:1-25
THE FALL OF JERICO



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

SUMMARY

God wants to use us to accomplish His purpose

Obstacles that seem impossible in our lives are possible with God

We must reject any items and/or practices that are a reminder of a rebellious life against God

Trusting God's ways will never come back void

What did God promise Joshua at the beginning of this story?



What was unique about the strategy God gave Joshua to conquer Jericho, and why do you think He chose to do it that way?

Who was spared in the seige? Why?

What are some walls in your life that are keeping you from the promises of God



What are some specific instructions and/or promises God has given you in fighting your battles?

How has this story personally impacted you?



How can you live your life differently after reading this story?

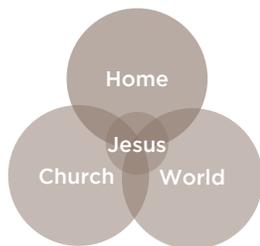


PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

ICEBREAKER QUESTION IDEAS: (QUICK ONES ARE IN BOLD)

1. If you could be a fly on a wall, where would you most want to be?
2. **What is your favorite soda?**
3. What was it like the first time I spoke in public?
4. **If you were a magazine, which one would you be?**
5. **If you could be a fictitious superhero, who would you be? Or what super power would you most want?**
6. Greatest peer pressure as an adult?
7. Where do you feel closest to God?
8. **What is your favorite music genre?**
9. How do you react when people sing "Happy Birthday" to you in a restaurant?
10. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?
11. **Who is your favorite singer?**
12. **What is your favorite musical instrument?**
13. What is at the top of your bucket list?
14. What is usually the first thing that comes to your mind when you think about God?
15. How would you describe God to a child?
16. What color best describes you and why?
17. What was the high point of last week? The low point?
18. **What one word would be your theme for the year?**
19. Name one person who has had the biggest impact in your life and why?
20. If I knew I had only one year to live, I would spend it...
21. **If I could visit any place in the world, it would be...**
22. If I had a million dollars to spend for the benefit of mankind...
23. The thing that causes me the greatest satisfaction is...
24. Wallet/Purse scavenger hunt: The most worthless item? - The most priceless item? - The most revealing item? - The most memorable item? - etc.
25. What is your favorite memory as a child?
26. Share something you fear.
27. How old were you when you learned to ride a bike, what was that experience like?
28. When in your life, if ever, did God become more than a word to you?
29. What's your most embarrassing moment?
30. Describe an experience when the Holy Spirit has been your comforter.
31. When was the first time you became aware that God loves you?
32. What are your strongest convictions about God?
33. **If you could hear God say one thing to you, what would that be?**
34. **If you could see God standing in front of you, what one thing would you most want to say to Him?**
35. **What single question would you most want God to answer for you if He would?**
36. Describe the person you have known whom you felt knew God most intimately.
37. What would you do if heavy persecution came on you/your family?
38. What would you do with an extra free day off of work?
39. Where would you go if you could go anywhere in the world?
40. **If you could become an animal for one day, which one would it be?**
41. **What is one secret place in your house that you only clean on special occasions (like mother-in-law visiting)?**
42. Whom do you admire the most? In what ways does that person inspire you?
43. If you knew your time was cut short, what's one thing you'd change about the way you are now living?
44. If you could be famous, what would you be famous for?
45. What do you strive for the most in your life - ie: accomplishment, security, love, power, excitement, knowledge, etc?
46. If you could go back in time and not return, what would you try to accomplish even if you knew you might change the course of history?
47. **How many of your friendships have lasted more than ten years?**
48. If someone were to write a book about you, what do you think the title and theme would be?
49. What things make your life complicated?
50. **In one line what is life all about?**
51. If your animals could talk, what would they tell you?
52. What would be the greatest birthday present of all time?
53. **Give three words to describe how you feel right now.**
54. If you could hang a motto or saying in every home in the world, what would it be?
55. Which emoji best describes you and why?
56. **What was the make / model / year / color of your first car?**
57. What's your biggest pet peeve?
58. **What's your first name and an adjective that starts with the same first letter, that best describes you? (ie: Carl:Caring)**
59. Favorite Christmas Carol and why?
60. If you could have coffee with anyone in the history of ever, who would it be and why?

GROUND RULES

WHY GROUND RULES?

Many of us find ourselves cringing when the subject of rules come up. Rules can often indicate limits or restrictions that impede our desired actions. The ground rules we will abide by are specifically designed to give freedom rather than restrictions. It is our desire that through effective ground rules each person will feel the freedom to share from their hearts, feel the assurance of confidence, and experience a group willing to listen. When interacting as a group, we can find ourselves checking out or shutting down for the smallest of reasons. Being aware of our impact on each other is paramount for a safe environment.

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY:

We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest with our struggles and victories. What is said in the group stays in the group.

NO FIXING OTHERS:

Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they'll ask for it. If people think that as soon as they share a problem or issue everyone is going to immediately try to fix them (offer advice/solutions), often they simply won't share at all.

LISTEN & PAUSE

Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Don't think about what you're going to say next or how you're going to respond; really listen. After someone shares, give a pause to allow the group to feel the weight of what is being shared and fully consider it before the next person shares. This pause also gives the person time to reflect a little deeper while continuing to share more. Remember, SILENCE IS OK. It gives time for reflection and others to begin sharing.

DON'T RESCUE:

When people are sharing something deeply personal and painful, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and result in not going as deep as they intended. Resist the temptation to rescue people. We must be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is doing in their life.

USE "I" STATEMENTS:

It's easy to talk about the issues of others; in LIFE Groups we will use "I" statements. We will try to avoid words such as "them," "the church," "us," "we," "he/she," etc. Using "I" statements helps us to focus on what God is doing in our lives and gives us opportunity to self-reflect. This allows maximum potential for effectual change in our lives.

NO CROSS TALK:

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, texting, or phone calls. Cross talk devalues the person sharing and communicates that they are not as important as what you may be doing. (Be sensitive to those with cell phones—kids, family issues, on-call at work). Remember, when going over the Ground Rules in your group, give those who may be on-call or have children the opportunity to communicate that they may need to take a call or text during group.

STAY ON TOPIC:

Much time and prayer is put into the determination of the biblical direction our church is headed. We must value the importance of that direction in taking it to a heart level in our LIFE Groups during the week. In addition, LIFE Group leaders prepare according to this direction and the topic for each lesson. Rabbit trails may devalue the unity as well as what the Lord is doing in our church body. In honoring each individuals time & schedules, please try to stay on topic with every group question. Rabbit trails can also add time to the end of the LIFE Group and does not honor others in our group who may need to get to their families and/or may need rest for the next day's busy schedule.

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK:

We all have a story or response to share, making it important that we value each other during LIFE Group. Sometimes we may find ourselves overtalking out of nervousness or even habit. However, to honor each person and their time, we must do our part by keeping our own talk time limited and to the point, giving each person an opportunity to interact.

ADDITIONAL NOTES / PRAYER REQUESTS

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