

UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

Through the Bible

February 17-23

Exodus 14-15

Things to Know

Inside Out -Join us for 100+ community projects to live our faith Inside Out! Sign-ups are Coming Soon! March 9-15 - Simpsonville & Greenville Campuses March 16-22 - Anderson

EggVenture Volunteers Needed April 5th, 2 - 5 pm - <u>Click Here to Volunteer!</u>

Gospel Connections and Conversations
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Studying God's Word In Community

Reminder. Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.

Read

Read Genesis Exodus 14-15 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
- What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
- Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
- What do you need help understanding about this passage?

Sermon Recap

- Despite our beliefs to the contrary, sometimes humanity is not sufficient to deliver themselves from every trouble. There are situations in life that prove too much for us to handle. In those moments, we need a deliverer who can do what we cannot.
- "God will never give you more than you can handle." False. This is nowhere in the Bible. In fact, what we see over and over again in scripture is that God continually gives you more than you can handle so that you can learn to rely on him.
- The beauty of Exodus 14 is that we begin to realize that there is nothing that God cannot handle. God is the God of the impossible.
- The situation in Exodus 14 runs parallel to humanity's spiritual situation. In our sinfulness we face an impossible situation, but God overcomes our impossible situation with a deliverance in Christ Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. When Have You Felt Trapped Like Israel?

(Exodus 14:10-12)

"As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord."

- **Discussion:** How do the Israelites' fear and complaints reveal their sense of hopelessness? Can you relate to a time when you felt trapped, like there was no way out?
- **Application:** When faced with impossible situations, do you tend to react like the Israelites complaining or fearing—or do you turn to God in trust? How can you remind yourself of His faithfulness in those moments?

2. What Does It Mean to 'Stand Firm'?

(Exodus 14:13-14)

"Moses answered the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will

bring you today... The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

- **Discussion:** What does Moses' command to "stand firm" and "be still" teach us about trusting God's deliverance? Why is it hard to wait on God when we're overwhelmed?
- **Application:** How can you practice "being still" in the middle of life's storms? Are there areas in your life right now where you need to let God fight for you instead of trying to control the outcome?

3. What 'Red Seas' Has God Parted in Your Life?

(Exodus 14:21-22)

"Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind... and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground."

- **Discussion:** The parting of the Red Sea was an impossible event, showcasing God's power. Can you recall times in your life when God made a way where there seemed to be no way?
- **Application:** How do these past experiences of God's deliverance shape your faith in current struggles? Are there situations now where you need to trust Him to make a way?

4. How Do You Respond After God Delivers You?

(Exodus 15:1-2)

"Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: 'I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.""

- **Discussion:** After their deliverance, Israel responded with worship and song. How do you respond when God brings you through difficult times? Do you take time to celebrate His goodness?
- **Application:** What specific practices can you adopt to cultivate gratitude and worship in your daily life, especially after experiencing God's provision?

5. Why Is It Easy to Forget God's Faithfulness?

(Exodus 15:22-24)

"Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea... For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water... So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, 'What are we to drink?"

- **Discussion:** Just days after witnessing God's miraculous deliverance, the Israelites began to grumble again. Why do you think it's so easy to forget God's past faithfulness when new challenges arise?
- **Application:** How can you remind yourself of God's deliverance in both big and small ways when facing new trials? Is there a practice (like journaling or sharing testimonies) that can help you remember His goodness?

Scripture

Exodus 14:10-31

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.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ex 14:10-31.

Living on Mission In Community

Before you close the group, answer this question:

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

God is the God of the impossible. Where are you facing impossibilities in life? Where do you need God to deliver you? Be honest with the group about the struggles you face and pray together for deliverance.

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

- 1. How did you feed yourself?
 - (What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)
- 2. How did you feed others?
 - (How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)
- 3. How did you feed your flesh?
 - (What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)

Leader Resources

If you are a leader and would like extra resources or a full curriculum guide, CLICK HERE.

