

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**The Lord Is My Banner**

EXODUS 15:22-18:27

OVERVIEW

God's chosen people are in Egypt. Not only that, they are enslaved. Against the backdrop of God's promises in Genesis—that God's people would be in God's place—the current situation seems dire. Has the Lord forgotten his promises? The story of Exodus reveals God's faithfulness in redeeming his people from bondage into his presence. The way out? Not by human might. By faith in God's promise to deliver through a blood sacrifice. The Lord does all of this so that all people might know he is the Lord and his people might rightly fear him, worshipping him in all things. The Greek title for the book (or shall we say, this chapter of the Pentateuch) is *Exodus*, a word meaning "exit, departure or going out."

APPLY // EXODUS 14-15

Main Idea: The Lord gets glory and gives grace. Fear him because there is no one like him.

1. The Lord takes his people on a "detour" into a desperate situation not a direct route to the Promised Land. Why is this actually a good thing? Why is it often hard for us to willingly accept when God doesn't act the way we thought he would (or should!)?
2. Discuss how the events of crossing the Red sea show God's glory, justice and grace. How should this point us to the cross of Jesus Christ?
3. Israel responds in song. Discuss why singing is a helpful response to the Lord's glory and grace. How is singing an right expression of fearing the Lord?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // EXODUS 15:21-18:27

Main Idea: The Lord's grace overcomes his people's grumbling.

1. Read Exodus 15:22.
 - a. What is the context?
 - b. What just happened in chapter 14?
 - c. What was Israel doing in chapter 15?
2. Read 15:23-27.
 - a. How many days have passed?
 - b. What does Israel do?
 - c. What's ironic about their complaint given what they've just experienced?
 - d. What is the attitude / reasoning behind their grumbling?
 - e. How does the Lord respond in verse 15? What does this tell us about the Lord's character?
 - f. What does the Lord tell Israel in verses 25b-27? What does this tell us about obedience? Disobedience?

3. Read 16:1-12.
 - a. What is Israel doing now? Why?
 - b. What is the attitude / reasoning behind their grumbling?
 - c. What does the Lord say he'll do? What does he tell Israel to do?
 - d. According to verse 4, what is the Lord's motive? What's the difference between testing and tempting?
 - e. In verse 12, the Lord promises to provide meat and bread. What does he want Israel to know? How does this fit what we've seen so far in the book of Exodus?
4. In 16:13-36, the Lord does what he said he'd do. But Israel fails to fully obey. In verse 32, what does the Lord tell Israel to do? Why? What does this tell us about the importance of remembering?
5. Read 17:1-7.
 - a. What is Israel doing now? Why?
 - b. What is the attitude / reasoning behind their grumbling?
 - c. In 7:5-6, we read the instructions God gives to Moses and Moses' response. What does God tell Moses to do?
 - d. Why do you think Moses is told to use the staff? What does the staff symbolize?
6. Look up 1 Corinthians 10:1-6. How does this passage add to your understanding of the story of Moses striking the rock at Horeb? What does the story point toward?
7. At Marah, who tested whom? (15:25b) At Rephidim, who tested whom? (17:7)
8. Why is it acceptable for God to test us, but not for us to test God?
9. How has God shown us that he is to be trusted not tested?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How are you doing trusting the Lord with the detours, difficulties, and delays in life?