

LEAD SHEET

EXODUS: AFTER THE SEA WAS PARTED - WK 7

THE RED SEA

AUGUST 21, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:

DIALOGUE WITH GOD

If you want to know God better, talk to Him!

GETTING STARTED

Any time a big event happens, people tend to remember where they were when it occurred. Many generations have a defining moment such as the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the attacks on the World Trade Centers on September 11, 2001, D-Day, Liberation Day, Nelson Mandela's death, and so on. People know where they were when these events took place. However, it is not just when bad things happen.

General Discussion:

- How many of you have a memory about something great that has happened in your life? *(Allow students to share.)*
- How often do you think about that event? *(Allow students to share.)*
- Do you ever tell people about the awesome things that happen? *(Allow students to share.)*

Today, we are going to talk about—arguably—the biggest event in the history of the people of Israel, an event about which they would not stop talking.

DIGGING IN

Israel is finally free. Captivity is behind them. The promises of God, and His continued presence, are ahead. They number at 600,000 war-ready adult men, plus women and children. This is a massive Exodus. However, God isn't finished with the Egyptians just yet.

Read Exodus 14:1-9

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the Lord tell Moses to do? (*Turn back and set up camp "between Migdol and the sea"*)
2. Why does God do this? (*He is not finished dealing with Pharaoh.*)
3. What does He want Pharaoh to do? (*Pursue Israel and try to stop them.*)
4. Does this happen? (*Yes, Pharaoh gives chase with the best of his army.*)
5. Do they catch up? (*Yes, they do.*)
6. What do you think Pharaoh was thinking at this moment? (*That he was going to win after all, that his power was great, that he would get his slaves back, etc.*)
7. We know the ending, but imagine you are an Israelite, freshly escaped from captivity, what would you be thinking when you heard and saw the Egyptian army closing in? (*Seized with fear, nervous, anxious, etc.*)

Read Exodus 14:10-12

As it turns out, Israel was terrified. They cry out to Moses. They preferred their captivity to this heinous death. Moses has a word for them, too.

Read Exodus 14:13-14

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Moses say? (*“Do not be afraid, stand firm.”*)
2. Why should they not fear? (*God is going to deliver them.*)
3. Are they supposed to fight? (*No, they should “only be still.”*)
4. Does this sound reasonable? If you were them, would it have been hard to listen and obey? (*For many of us, what they were being told defies reason.*)

Even so soon after the plagues, it must've been difficult for the Israelites to be comforted by Moses' words. They should remain still as God has directed through Moses. However, they will soon see that God will indeed fight for them.

Read Exodus 14:15-22

Discussion Questions:

1. What does God instruct Moses to do? (Raise his staff, stretch out his hand, and get moving.)
2. How is the sea parted? (The Lord drove it back with a strong east wind.)
3. What does the pillar of cloud do? (It stands between Israel and the Egyptians.)
4. The Israelites pass through on what? (Dry ground.)
It's interesting that it's not muddy ground but dry ground.

God parts the sea and a couple million people pass through on a dry pathway while a Pillar of Cloud (then, fire at night) blocks the Egyptians. However, Pharaoh isn't giving up that easily.

Read Exodus 14:23-28

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do the Egyptians follow them? (*The sea.*)
2. What happens “during the last watch of the night”? (*The Lord throws the army into confusion. He jams their wheels making driving difficult.*)
3. What does the Lord instruct Moses to do? (*Stretch out his hand again.*)
4. What happens when he does so? (The sea goes back into its place, drowning the entire army that had pursued Israel.)

Read Exodus 14:29-31

Discussion Questions:

These verses serve as a synopsis of the chapter. Exodus 14 is a salvation story. Trapped and without hope on their own, it is only God who brings them through the Red Sea. He is their deliverance and they will never forget it.

MAKING IT REAL

One of the most interesting things about the Red Sea narrative is that it is recalled so many times in the rest of the Bible.

Read Joshua 24:6; Psalm 136:13-15, Acts 7:36 and Hebrews 11:29

These are just a few of the times that the Bible references the crossing of the Red Sea. It is a monumental event remembered for generations—even in the New Testament.

General Discussion:

- Why do you think this experience stuck with Israel as a people? (*It was the gateway between slavery and freedom.*)

- What would it have been like to witness the Red Sea parting? Do you think it would've been easy to talk about? *(Of course, you couldn't help but speak up about it.)*
- Is there a similar event in your lifetime—perhaps a non-spiritual event—that you cannot help but share with others? It was just a huge moment for you. *(We shared in the “Getting Started” section some of these so they should be able to recall a few.)*

Read 2 Peter 3:1-9

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Peter write that his readers should recall? *(Words spoken in the past by prophets and the commands given by the Lord through the apostles.)*
2. Of what is Peter trying to remind them? *(That God keeps His promises.)*
3. What is that promise? *(That God is willing to save anyone who will turn to Him.)*
4. Do you find yourself forgetting God's promises? Why or why not? *(Allow students to share.)*
5. Do you have a moment, or moments, where God moved in your life that you cannot forget? *(Allow students to share.)*

When God moves in our lives, it should be something we remember. When God saves us, we should recall His promise to save anyone who turns to Him. When we have a Red Sea moment—when God moves and makes a way for us—that should be something we remember forever. It is something we should talk about often.

We already read Exodus 14 and the parting of the Red Sea. In Exodus 15, Israel composes two songs to commemorate it. Moses sings one along with Israel, and Miriam (Moses' sister) sings another.

You don't have to write a song, but you do need to know your Red Sea moment.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray that your students be bold in sharing their Red Sea moments so that others will know the Lord.