

I'm (not) Fine

Pastor David Uth

Passage: Exodus 14:10-18

10When 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."

Background

Ever felt stuck between a rock and a hard place? Imagine the children of Israel escaping from bondage in Egypt only to come to a seemingly impassable sea. With Pharaoh and his army rapidly approaching behind them and the water in front of them, the people did what almost all of us would likely do – they got scared! Fear has a way of paralyzing us from stepping out in faith, even when God has been clear in what He wants to do in our lives. Despite what it looked like – that God had brought them out of bondage only to abandon them to Pharaoh's army – God was WORKING in a bigger way. He was preparing His people to see His miraculous power AND to get great glory by overthrowing Pharaoh and His army. Like God's people coming out of Egypt, when we face fearful moments or overwhelming situations, may we let our faith meet our fear and watch God get great glory in our life!

Service Notes

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- When have you felt like you were stuck between “a rock and a hard place”? How did you react? Would you respond differently today? What did you learn about God and yourself?

Talk it Over

- **Read Exodus 14:1-14.** Why does God say He is leading the people to THIS specific place to camp (vs. 1-4)? What does God say He’s going to do? How did the people react? In what ways can you sympathize with the people for their reaction? In what ways had God already shown His faithfulness to His people (see: ch. 12-13)? What Does Moses tell the people to do – even when the scene seems hopeless (vs. 13-14)? What can we learn from Moses’ instructions? In what ways have you witnessed God “fighting for you?” What does this teach us about putting our faith and trust in God in action?
- **Read Exodus 14:15-31.** What does God say to Moses? How would you respond to the command to “go forward” where there’s nowhere to go? How does God work through Moses? What can we learn about trusting God from these verses? Is it possible God allows us to walk through difficult situations, even the ones where we see no way through? Why? In what ways have you looked back and seen God’s faithfulness on the OTHER side of a “rock and a hard place” kind of situation? What is one way you know God is calling you to GO FORWARD in your obedience to Him today? What is the ultimate result of God working *through* our lives (vs. 30-31)?
- **Read Isaiah 43.** How does this prophetic poem – looking back at God’s faithfulness give you hope today? What works of God does Isaiah point out in the passage? What’s one phrase or verse that you can memorize this week?

Live it Out

- What is an area of life where you are dealing with fear and uncertainty right now? How can you take a step of faith THIS week to trust God and faithfully obey what He tells you?