

## Exodus – week 3: Trusting God through wilderness

Reflect together on the story so far then read Exodus 13:17 - 14:31 together.

1. **Exodus 13:17** God didn't take them on the obvious, direct route, knowing this would be too much of a challenge for them. Instead, He took them on a route that brought them closer to Him and ended up where they needed to be. How easy is it to accept God's direction when it doesn't match our expectations?
2. **Exodus 13:21-22** In a land without clear paths, God's presence was persistent and consistent, through the pillars of cloud and fire. Consider how this may link to John 8:12. How does God guide us today? When we're feeling unsure which way to go, what can we look for to show us the way?
3. **Exodus 14:3-4** As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites panicked and cried out to God. When we find ourselves in dangerous places with no easy escape "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" ([Psalm 46:1](#)). Is our first response to call out to God? What practical steps could we take to help us do this?
4. **Exodus 14:11-12** The way the Israelites spoke to Moses showed that in their panic and fear, they'd already forgotten the reality of their experience in Egypt – those emotions can dull our memory of past grace and distort spiritual perspective. How can we identify when this is happening? How could we respond and support others when we see panic distorting perspective?
5. **Exodus 14:13-14** God sets us free from fear and will fight on our behalf. He wants to rescue us, if we'll let him. When experiencing fear, do we let that fear drive us back, or, despite it, step closer to God? Many of us like to take action, so how does it feel to be told to stop and let God be in control?
6. **Exodus 14:15-16** We see God's simple instruction (and Moses' obedience) lead to a mighty miracle. God executes a full rescue precisely where all human options end. Can you think of times when a seemingly simple instruction from God led to a breakthrough or blessing? When God can do miracles without us, why do you think He asks us to take part?
7. Reflect on the amended verse, praying into the challenges those in your group are facing:

***"Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The challenge you see today will never be seen again. The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm."***