



Exodus Study Questions

Week 7

We know the desire to get there quickly. We look for the shortest, fastest route. Traffic, delays, and detours are a waste of time. It's irritating when journeys take longer than they should have, even when we don't have a strict schedule to keep. Sometimes, though, the long road is best. Sometimes the detour turns out to be just what we needed.

Main Text: Exodus 12:31-15:27

Connect

1. Share about a time when it took you longer to get somewhere than you planned. What happened and how did you feel at the time?
2. Have you had an experience where taking "the long way" turned out to be a great decision or outcome? If so, share it with the group.
3. What did you find most significant from this week's sermon?

Understand

1. Read chapter 12, verses 31-51. How does the description of events in these verses compare with what was said earlier in 3:19-22?
2. Read chapter 13, verses 1-16. What two practices are intended to teach and remind future generations about what God has done?¹
3. Read chapter 13, verses 17-22. What reason do these verses give for the route that God led them to take? Why do you think Israel would even consider a "return to Egypt"?
4. Read chapter 14. In a chapter full of spectacular things, what different ways do we see the LORD supernaturally intervening in this chapter in spite of the Israelites' lack of faith in verses 10-12?
5. Read chapter 15, verses 1-21. Note and discuss the different attributes and/or actions of the LORD that are celebrated.

Apply

1. The concept of redeeming the firstborn may seem strange, but it emphasizes God's ownership over the things we value most. What does it (or should it) mean for your life that God is the rightful owner of the things you value most?
2. In chapter 13, verses 17-22 are an example of God using an indirect route to a destination for His people. Have you ever experienced this personally? Whether you have or not, what should our attitude be when God is clearly leading us down "the long road"?
3. In chapter 14, verses 13-14, Moses reassures the people to watch and believe rather than to try to fight: "The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." What parallels, if any, do you see between this and what it means for us to follow Jesus today?
4. As you think through the "Song of Moses" in 15:1-21, what attribute(s) or action(s) of God do you find most worth celebrating? Take time to celebrate them together as a group through prayer.
5. So far, what is the most significant thing you've either learned or been reminded of in our study of Exodus?

Note:

1. Literally, this is very foreign to us! Commentators point out that in this Ancient Near East setting, the firstborn—whether of humans or animals—represented what was considered best and most valuable. Also, to address another puzzling detail, some have noted how the animals being redeemed (through sacrifice) in verses 11-16 are all edible, except for the donkey, which is a work animal that would not be consumed. A work animal, then, is to be redeemed by a substitute non-work/edible animal or by killing the work animal if a substitute animal is not offered in its place.