



The Israelites have seen God pour out miracles and wrath upon the Egyptians. They've finally left Egypt, and today, we get to one of the most famous passages you can find anywhere in the Bible. Today, the Israelites are going to cross the Red Sea. For centuries, people have tried to explain away the miracles of the Bible because they are beyond the natural. Guess what? We should agree that they are beyond the natural. Our entire faith is beyond the natural; it's supernatural. If you can't believe God could part some waters, what are you going to do with the whole Son of God coming in the form of a baby, dying on the cross for the sins of the world, resurrected from the dead, and coming back again? We serve a miracle-working God! In your life and *this church*, it's time to cross over into the new things God is doing. We are not to be driven by fear or caution but by faith and trust.

Key Passage: Exodus 14

Discussion Questions:

1. What parallels can be drawn between the Israelites' journey to cross the Red Sea and your experiences facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles?
2. How does the Israelites' response to the threat of the Egyptians reflect our tendencies of fear, forgetfulness, and a pull toward the familiar?

When the people of Israel saw that Pharaoh and the Egyptians were marching after them, they were completely freaked out – this was their worst-case scenario. Israel's response to this situation reveals something true about the human heart. First, our hearts are bent towards forgetfulness. It seems like no one remembered all God had done. Instead, the people were devastated because they had *forgotten* what God had done for them. After forgetfulness, we see fear. Israel goes worst-case scenario in their minds. If they had remembered what God had just delivered them from, perhaps they would have responded in faith instead of fear. But yet again, they think they're about to die. Finally, we see how their hearts were bent toward the familiar rather than faith that would compel them to risk forward. All of us bend towards what is familiar and comfortable, even if it's not right for us (this is why we go back to sin patterns or even relationship patterns that are not healthy).

It's easy to look down on Israel and say, "How could they be like that?" We should ask, "How are we tempted to be just like them?"

3. How does Moses' response to the Israelites' fear demonstrate spiritual leadership and deep faith in God?

How might you have been tempted to respond if you were in Moses' shoes? Would you respond, as Moses, "Don't be afraid, stand firm, and watch God work. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be

silent." Aren't those fantastic words for Moses to say? By the way, you'll find yourself in seasons and in situations where this must be your response (be silent, let God move).

4. What role does faith play in the command for the Israelites to "move forward" despite the seemingly impossible situation before them?

If Israel had not crossed over, they would not have seen the power and salvation of God, they might've returned to Egypt to a life of slavery, or they might've died.

5. How does the crossing of the Red Sea demonstrate the power and faithfulness of God? What impact does witnessing such a miracle have on the Israelites? What should this miracle (and others) do for your faith?
6. How does the message of "crossing over" from fear to faith and from the familiar to the new apply to you, your small group, and our church?

It's time to cross over from forgetfulness to remembrance. What has God done in your life? How has He been faithful? Do your kids know the stories of God's faithfulness in your life? How has God moved in our church's history? Let's remember His presence!

It's time to cross over from fear to faith. We don't need to be people of fear, of worst-case scenarios! We need to be people of faith, believing God for the best and with hope for the future!

It's time to cross over from the familiar to the new. In your life, if you only stick to the familiar, you'll never move forward. We'll never move forward if we only stick to the familiar in our church.

7. What significance does "relaunching" with a church-plant mindset hold for a church's future growth and impact? How can this same mindset apply to our small group?

You think differently in a church plant than in a megachurch. In a megachurch, you expect every need to be already met; you expect people to be already coming to the church. In a church plant, every conversation you have in the community is an opportunity to invite someone to church. There's a sense of worry that if I don't show up to help, who will? If I don't give, who will? If I don't serve, who will?

8. Why is it essential to create a welcoming environment within the church? What steps can you take to help our church achieve this goal? What steps can you take to help your small group accomplish this goal?
9. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on this week?