



The Israelites have been in slavery to the Egyptians for just over 400 years before God delivered them through ten miraculous plagues. The last plague, the death of the firstborn throughout Egypt, dealt the final blow and released the hands of Pharaoh upon God's people. The people of Israel were amazed at what God had done, and they quickly left Egypt, plundering the Egyptians on the way out. God then gives instructions to Israelites about the future, namely related to the Passover and consecrating their firstborn to the Lord as a way to remember what God had done in bringing them out of their slavery in Egypt. This brings us to our passage of study for today, a significant passage that will prove to be a guide to the Israelites during their wilderness journey.

**Key Passage:** Exodus 13:17-22

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does today's passage illustrate the concept of God's guidance in times of uncertainty and fear?
2. Discuss the significance of God leading the Israelites away from the Philistines despite it being the shortest route to the Promised Land. What might this look like as God works in our lives today?
3. In what ways do our limited perspective and naive expectations hinder our understanding of God's plans for our lives? What insights can we gain from Adrian Rogers' analogy of God leading us on detours to prepare us for His purposes?
4. How does the story of Joseph exemplify the importance of trusting God's timing and experiencing His provision under challenging circumstances?
5. Reflect on the symbolism of the cloud by day and pillar of fire by night as God's guidance for the Israelites. How does this relate to our reliance on the Holy Spirit today?
6. Reflect on your own "Joseph journey" or "wilderness journey." How have these experiences shaped your faith and understanding of God?
7. In what ways can surrendering our will to God's will and embracing His plan lead to transformation and spiritual fulfillment?
8. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on this week?