

Getting Free

Insights on Exodus 14:1-31

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, February 5, 2017

Turning back?

(Exodus 14:1-12, Matthew 14:22-33)

- **The Christian life...**
- **Our old life...**

How do we stay free?

(Exodus 14:13-18, Ephesians 6:10-20)

1. **We stand_____.**
2. **We choose_____in the midst of _____**
3. **We don't consider our _____as an option.**
4. **Never underestimate the power of _____.**

Continuing in freedom...

(Romans 5:8-10, 7, 8)

- **If the Christian life is a dog fight,
the dog that wins...**
- **We all need a...**

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 4” of our Small Group Session!

We hope and pray your time together has been rich as you have studied and discussed God's Word together. We strongly encourage you to have some times outside of the group to get together for times of fun and fellowship! This is a 13 week session of small groups and we will wrap up the week of April 9th.

Getting Started:

1. We saw this past weekend that the Israelites were literally stuck between a “sea” on one side, and an enemy army on the other. They felt trapped with no way out. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like this? What was it, and how was it resolved?
2. For many of us, there are several key people who've helped us come into a relationship with Jesus. Which people have played a significant role in you becoming a Christians and/or getting to the point in your faith that you're at today?

Quick Review: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper:

1. This weekend we saw how God spoke clearly to the Israelites assuring them that he was there even though the Egyptians were pursuing them. His answer to them was to “stand firm” and “be still.” The following verses add various actions and attitudes to what it means to

do this. As you read each one, how does it help your understanding of what it takes to stand firm?

- 1 Corinthians 15:58
- 1 Corinthians 10:12
- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14
- Ephesians 6:10-20

2. Most of us can relate to our own “conflict within” that Paul speaks about in romans 7. Romans 8 is the great news of what God’s Spirit has done for us and the hope we have to “break the cycle” of going back to our “old life.” It’s such a powerful chapter we’d like to make sure you set aside some extra time to “be still” and read through the entire chapter of Romans 8. As you read, jot down any phrases or verses that give you hope or encouragement in your journey in following Jesus and “becoming free.”

Looking back at what you just wrote, is there a phrase or verse that you want to focus on this week? Share that verse or phrase with the group, and why it stood out to you.

3. Dave compared the Christian life to a dog fight. We said the dog that wins is the dog we feed the most. As Christians, we can either feed the “old life” or our “new life” in Christ. How does Philippians 4:8 help us work through what to feed and what to filter out in our “new life” in Christ?

Can you think of any ways this verse or its applications might be taken out of context or create legalism?

What are some potential filters in the following categories? Can you think of any filters you’ve added or changed in the past? Are there any changes you’d like to consider moving forward?

- Media
- Talk
- Relationships
- Other

4. As the Israelites were encamped at the sea, they heard the hooves of the horses and saw the dust cloud of the Egyptian army approaching. This caused them great fear, thinking they would be wiped out there in the desert. Moses got up and spoke to them out of his experience to bring perspective and peace in the midst of their fear. Do you have a “Moses” in your life? If you don’t how can you go about finding one? Are you a “Moses” in the life of someone else?

Wrapping Up:

Based on last week’s message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out?

Take a few moments to take some prayer request and spend some time praying for the other members in your group.