

Exodus 13.17-14.31 home group study question

By Phil Bailey

Please feel free to select or adapt the questions you think will be most helpful for your group in the time available.

1. Look at 13.17. God knows the Israelites do not yet fear and trust him enough to fight enemies with him as they head to the promised land. How do his actions through the rest of chapters 13-14 show that Israel can fear and trust him?

(N.B. right fear of the Lord is not a mindset that only recognises the fearsomeness of God's judgment upon sin and makes you want to run away in terror. It is not being afraid of God. It is certainly something overwhelming and accompanied by trembling, but it also makes you want to draw near, because you see the beauty of his holiness and the graciousness of his loving character. It is more like the fear of a child who does not want to displease their parent or be separated from them precisely because they love their parent so much! Hence, fear can sit comfortably next to trust in 14.31 – the two go together)

2. How is Christian baptism like Israel's passage through the Red Sea (1 Corinthians 10:1-2, Romans 6:1-14)?
3. How does the Exodus help us see the horror of slavery to sin and the wonder of our rescue in Christ, as signified by baptism?
4. How do God's actions at the Red Sea *and* the Cross together encourage us to fear and trust him as the God who fought singlehandedly for his people?
5. Why do we need to fear and trust him, if we are to stand firm in battles in the Christian life now?
6. Where do you most need reminding that he has singlehandedly fought and delivered you from your greatest enemy at the moment?
7. How can you look back to your baptism with greater thankfulness?