

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Memorial Day

These questions are for the **May 28, 2017** sermon, "Extreme Conditions." Please read the sermon passage (Exodus 14) together out loud.

WHEN FACING EXTREME CONDITIONS, REFLECT ON . . .

1. **The purposes of God.** (10-18)
 - A. Extreme circumstances are temporary, but God's promises are permanent.
 - i. God had promised his people that they would possess the land forever.
 - ii. God is using extreme conditions to put his faithfulness on display.
 - B. The people begin to ask the "why me?" questions (vv. 10-12)
 - C. Moses instructs the people about what to do when they don't understand:
 - i. Fear not (13)
 - ii. Stand firm (13)
 - iii. Be silent (14)
 - D. Two lessons to take away from this situation:
 - i. Trust God even when his reasons seem hidden.
 - ii. Trust God even when our options seem limited.
2. **The presence of God.** (19-20)
 - A. God "went before," "stood behind" and "came between" his people.
 - B. Remind yourself: though God may seem invisible he is always involved.
3. **The power of God.** (21-31)
 - A. He is showing his power to his people and the whole world.
 - B. Only the God of Israel is God. He is God over all and there is none like him!

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The people panicked and began asking all the "why me?" questions. Reflect on this tendency in your own heart: "In extreme situations we forget what has been done for us, and begin to focus on what we think has been done to us." Review some of the ways that God has been gracious and good to you.
2. Based on #1, above: Note Moses' instruction to the people (vv. 13-14). While they could not yet see what God was doing, he instructed them to "fear not," to "stand firm" and to "be silent." Which one of these directives is most difficult for you to obey when you face extreme conditions? How can we pray for you?
3. Based on #2, above: What disciplines might you practice in your life that will help remind you that God is present at all times? How might God's presence help you in the way you manage your emotions, your will and your mouth during hard days?
4. Based on #3, above: God is orchestrating global events to put his own glory on display, so that all the world will see his power and his glory. He has no rival. Discuss this truth.