



Your
story

matters.

JAN 11, 2026

Message Notes



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you could look into the future and see how something turned out, what would that be?

Read Exodus 14:1-30

1. Identify the cause for the Israelites' fear as they left Egypt (**Exodus 14:10**). Why do you think they had trouble trusting God to fulfill His purpose and to keep them safe at the same time?
2. Read **Isaiah 55:8-9**. Think about a time when following God was challenging because His ways seemed illogical to you. Is it always easy to believe that your good is a priority in God's plan, and in what ways have your reactions been similar to the Israelites?
3. How has the experience of following God through challenging situations strengthened or weakened your trust in Him?
4. Pastor Tom said that panic produces 4 responses and God deals with each (**Exodus 14:13-15**). Which of God's commands do you find most challenging, instructive, or encouraging when you are experiencing moments of panic?
5. What things are causing you fear or even panic right now? Share these with the group and spend some time praying for one another, asking God to remove your fears and give you the strength and courage to move forward when He commands. (Perhaps your next move is to place your total trust in God by saying, 'YES!' to Him. Now is your opportunity to do so.)

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

Day One: Luke 16; Psalm 149

Day Two: Numbers 32; Proverbs 25

Day Three: Hebrews 6; 2 Kings 23

Day Four: Titus 1; Ezekiel 26

Day Five: Job 25; Acts 9



Milestones - Part 2 “Follow the Leader”

Tom Lundeen | Jan 11, 2026

Note **Luke 9:28-31**

It's God's _____ through Moses that fulfilled His promise to free Israel from 400 years of slavery in Egypt (note **Exodus 12:31-36**).

The Israelites watched in awe as God's power was _____ through a series of 10 relevant, precise, and unmatched plagues.

And the Israelites left Egypt not as slaves, but as _____.

Note **Exodus 12:36; 13:18, 21-22**

So God says, "I provide the way out; I'll show you the way." We accept His answer, His new direction, which introduces us to a whole new set of tests and trials of a different kind. So while we are relieved of one...problem, we gain a new one. (Swindoll)

Note **Exodus 14:5-12**

Follow the Leader isn't a playground game, but an all-encompassing _____ commitment.

Moses' experience *following the leader* shows it can be a major challenge because:

1. God's Direction Doesn't Always Seem _____

Note **Exodus 14:1-2, 9**

...God isn't bound by human _____ (note **Isaiah 55:8-9**).

Note **Exodus 14:3-4**

The Israelites weren't _____; Pharaoh and his army were! But it didn't look like this to God's people (note **Exodus 14:10**).

Often God seems to place His children in positions of profound difficulty, leading them into a _____ from which there is no escape, designing a situation that no human judgment would have permitted had it been previously consulted. The very cloud directs them there. You...may be involved in a situation like this at this very hour. It does seem perplexing and mysterious to the last degree, but it is perfectly right. The issue will more than justify Him who has brought you there. It is a platform for the display of His almighty grace and power. Not only will He deliver you, but in doing so He will give you a _____ that you will never forget. (Meyer)

Note **Exodus 14:10-12; Psalm 106:7-8**

The _____ of faith = recognize as we follow the Lord, He will sometimes lead us in ways/circumstances that may not seem logical to us, but to trust that God has a plan.

2. God's Direction Isn't a Topic for _____

..._____ produces 4 responses:

- _____
- Flight
- Fight
- _____

God _____ with all 4 of these responses (note **Exodus 14:13**).

Being _____ probably the toughest thing...

Note **Exodus 14:15**

There's a time to debate, discuss, and even pray...but when God clearly gives us direction, it's time to _____ talking and praying and get moving.

Note **Exodus 14:16-30**

How wide an area was provided for the crossing is not given in the text. But here is something to think about. To get _____ million Israelites through the Red Sea in one night was quite a feat. If they were to go through the Red Sea double file, the double file line would be _____ miles long, and it would take _____ days and nights to get through. So, they had to have space in the Red Sea that was _____ miles wide, so they could walk _____ abreast. By walking 5,000 abreast they could get through in one night. (Epp)

Follow the Leader means _____ that God can do things we can't do...

MILESTONES MATTER:

- Following the Leader isn't an optional _____ game, but it's an overcoming way of living, even in difficult, "against the wall" circumstances.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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Milestones - Part 2 **“Follow the Leader”**

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Note **Luke 9:28-31**

It's God's power through Moses that fulfilled His promise to free Israel from 400 years of slavery in Egypt (note **Exodus 12:31-36**).

The Israelites watched in awe as God's power was unleashed through a series of 10 relevant, precise, and unmatched plagues.

And the Israelites left Egypt not as slaves, but as conquerors.

Note **Exodus 12:36; 13:18, 21-22**

So God says, "I provide the way out; I'll show you the way." We accept His answer, His new direction, which introduces us to a whole new set of tests and trials of a different kind. So while we are relieved of one...problem, we gain a new one. (Swindoll)

Note **Exodus 14:5-12**

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Moses' experience *following the leader* shows it can be a major challenge because:

1. God's Direction Doesn't Always Seem Logical

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...God isn't bound by human logic (note **Isaiah 55:8-9**).

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The Israelites weren't trapped; Pharaoh and his army were!
But it didn't look like this to God's people (note **Exodus 14:10**).

Often God seems to place His children in positions of profound difficulty, leading them into a wedge from which there is no escape, designing a situation that no human judgment would have permitted had it been previously consulted. The very cloud directs them there. You...may be involved in a situation like this at this very hour. It does seem perplexing and mysterious to the last degree, but it is perfectly right. The issue will more than justify Him who has brought you there. It is a platform for the display of His almighty grace and power. Not only will He deliver you, but in doing so He will give you a lesson that you will never forget. (Meyer)

Note **Exodus 14:10-12**; **Psalms 106:7-8**

The challenge of faith = recognize as we follow the Lord, He will sometimes lead us in ways/circumstances that may not seem logical to us, but to trust that God has a plan.

2. God's Direction Isn't a Topic for Debate

...panic produces 4 responses:

- Fear
- Flight
- Fight
- Fuss

God deals with all 4 of these responses (note **Exodus 14:13**).

Being quiet probably the toughest thing...

Note **Exodus 14:15**

There's a time to debate, discuss, and even pray...but when God clearly gives us direction, it's time to stop talking and praying and get moving.

Note **Exodus 14:16-30**

How wide an area was provided for the crossing is not given in the text. But here is something to think about. To get 3½ million Israelites through the Red Sea in one night was quite a feat. If they were to go through the Red Sea double file, the double file line would be 800 miles long, and it would take 35 days and nights to get through. So, they had to have space in the Red Sea that was 3 miles wide, so they could walk 5,000 abreast. By walking 5,000 abreast they could get through in one night. (Epp)

Follow the Leader means realizing that God can do things we can't do...

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