

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

## Four Responses to Trials – November 14, 2021

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- Charles Kingsley said, “There are two freedoms – the false, where a man is free to do what he likes; and the true, where a man is free to do what he ought.” Why is the first of these false and the other true?
- How is the second type of freedom more in line with the biblical idea of freedom?
- How would things be different in our society if people pursued true freedom instead of the false kind?
- What were some of Israel’s responsibilities having been redeemed and set free from slavery by God?
- What are some of our responsibilities as Christians now that we have been redeemed and set free from sin?

### 4 points of Sunday’s Sermon

- The Faith of Joseph
- The Blindness of Pharaoh
- The Fear of Israel
- The Courage of Moses

### I. The Faith of Joseph

- Read and discuss Hebrews 11:8-10.
- “True faith depends on what God says, not on what we see or how we feel.” Why is this a challenging statement?
- Has God ever put you in an impossible situation (or a situation that felt impossible) and then brought you through it? What is the value of this kind of experience?

- **Read and Discuss** Exodus 13:17-19.
- Why did Moses take Joseph's bones with him when they left Egypt? How did this show the faith of Joseph? Read Genesis 50:24-26 to help answer this question.

## **II. The Blindness of Pharaoh**

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 14:1-9.
- Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart in verse 4?
- According to verse 5, why did Pharaoh go after the Israelites?
- What do verse 4 and verse 5 tell us about God's sovereignty and man's responsibility?
- Why was Pharaoh so confident that he would be able to overtake the Israelites? In what ways was Pharaoh suppressing the truth? How was he blind?

## **III. The Fear of Israel**

- **Red and discuss** Exodus 14:10-12.
- Why were the Israelites so afraid when they saw Pharaoh's army? How would you have responded in that situation?
- In Israel's fear, what did they forget? How was Israel acting like Pharaoh in Exodus 14?
- What were the people implying about God's character when they accused Him of leading them into the wilderness to destroy them?
- Have you ever lost sight of God by focusing on earthly circumstances? Explain.
- What works of the Lord have you heard of or seen that have helped you to believe and trust in God in times of trials?
- How does it glorify God when we trust in Him?
- How does God use trials to strengthen our faith? Read James 1:2-4 to help answer this question.

## **IV. The Courage of Moses**

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 14:13-14.

- What changed in Moses to cause him to take such a courageous stand?
- In what ways are we to take a similar stand? Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 to help answer this question.
- How can we grow in our courage in facing trials?
- What does Ephesians 6:10-18 teach us about facing trials with courage?
- According to Ephesians 6:10-11, who's strength, who's might and who's armor are we to put on? How does the message in Ephesians 6:10-11 & Exodus 14:13-14 run contrary to the message being proclaimed today, "believe in yourself?"
- How do the four characters of this passage perfectly illustrate the four ways we can face a trial?
  - The Faith of Joseph
  - The Blindness of Pharaoh
  - The Fear of Israel
  - The Courage of Moses