

Sunday School Lesson (August 28, 2022)

Escape to Detours, Dry Holes, & Dead-Ends, Exodus 13:17-19

Initial

Guide for Bible study: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How.....and SO WHAT??

This class is a preparation for witnessing

- Foundation in the Bible
- Overcoming hesitation/reluctance (like Moses)

Identified: lack of time; lack of skill; shy; too busy; don't know the people/audience

(** An eight-year-old boy was reporting to his folks at Sunday dinner what he had learned at church school that morning. “Boy, was it exciting!” he exclaimed to his parents. “Moses organized all the Hebrews into a resistance group. They planned real carefully, and finally they broke loose from their Egyptian slave masters. They moved as fast as they could toward Canaan. They drove every kind of vehicle they could get hold of – jeeps, half-tracks, sixteen-wheelers – everything.

“But Pharaoh’s army wouldn’t quit. They tracked down the Israelites with color radar. They exploded missiles all around them and shot at them from jet planes in the sky. When Moses and his people reached the Red Sea, they thought they were finished. There was raging water in front of them and the Egyptians behind them. Suddenly, though, the Corps of Engineers came to the rescue and built a pontoon bridge over the Red Sea and all the fugitives crossed over to freedom. Then, just as Pharaoh’s forces were about to go across the bridge, the Hebrews blew it up with dynamite and saved all the people. Then they lived happily ever after in the Promised Land. What a terrific story!”

The youngster’s mom and dad were more than just a little concerned about their child’s overactive imagination. “Is that really what they told you at church this morning?” they inquired. “Well, not exactly,” their son replied. “But if I told you what they told me, you’d never believe it!” - Mastering the Old Testament, p. 158.)

The Exodus	Where does God plan to take the Israelites?	Ex 13:5	Land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Towards Mount Horeb or Sinai, in southwestern Sinai Peninsula (Ex 3:12 ¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”) Location of the burning bush.
	But not where?	Ex 13:17-19	
<i>¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, “Lest the people repent when they see war, and return to Egypt.” ¹⁸ But God led the people round by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. ¹⁹ And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him; for Joseph had solemnly sworn the people of Israel, saying, “God will visit you; then you must carry my bones with you from here.”</i>			
	Why not near the Philistines?		(Though that would be closer, the people might have second thoughts about returning to Egypt if they had to fight the Philistines.)
	What did Moses take?		(The bones of Joseph. Even in his lifetime, Joseph knew Egypt was not forever.)
	How did God lead the people?	Ex 13:21-22	(A cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. This cloud of glory became known as the Shekinah (“abiding,” or “dwelling”) glory.)
<i>²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night; ²² the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.</i>			
	Other examples	Matthew 17:5 Acts 1:9	
<i>⁵ He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ⁹ And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.</i>			

The Pursuit	God plans to best Pharaoh once more	Ex 14:1-4	
<i>14 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 “Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-ha-hi’roth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Ba’al-ze’phon; you shall encamp over against it, by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, ‘They are entangled in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’ 4 And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host; and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.” And they did so.</i>			
	Pharaoh regrets letting Israelites leave	Ex 14:5-9	
⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” ⁶ So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, ⁷ and took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸ And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and he pursued the people of Israel as they went forth defiantly. ⁹ The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-ha-hi’roth, in front of Ba’al-ze’phon.			
	Were the Israelites afraid?	Ex 14:10-11	(You bet)
<i>10 When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and they were in great fear. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord; 11 and they said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, in bringing us out of Egypt?”</i>			
	Moses response	Ex 14:13-18	
<i>13 And Moses said to the people, “<u>Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today;</u> for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still.” 15 The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. 16 Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go on dry ground through the sea. 17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”</i>			
	God’s solution	Ex 14:26-31	
²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back			

upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.”²⁷ So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its wonted flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it, and the LORD routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained.²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.
³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore.³¹ And Israel saw the great work which the LORD did against the Egyptians, and the people feared the LORD; and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

	Moses & the people sang God’s praise	Ex 15:1-3 (and it continues 4-18)	<p>15 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. ² The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. ³ The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.</p>
	Aaron’s sister, Miriam, prophetess sang	Ex 15:20-21	<p>²⁰ Then Miriam, the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and dancing. ²¹ And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”</p>
			(How long do you think that lasted??)
Challenges by the people	1 Food	Ex 16:2-3	In the wilderness of Sin, between Elim & Sinai.

² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to

<i>kill this whole assembly with hunger.”</i>			
	God’s solution	Ex 16:4-7, 13-21	
<p><i>4 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law or not. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” 6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, 7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your murmurings against the Lord. For what are we, that you murmur against us?”</i></p> <p><i>13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning dew lay round about the camp. 14 And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as hoarfrost on the ground. 15 When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?”[a] For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. 16 This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather of it, every man of you, as much as he can eat; you shall take an omer apiece, according to the number of the persons whom each of you has in his tent.’” 17 And the people of Israel did so; they gathered, some more, some less. 18 But when they measured it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; each gathered according to what he could eat. 19 And Moses said to them, “Let no man leave any of it till the morning.” 20 But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them. 21 Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.</i></p>			
		Ex 16:31	Manna : ³¹ Now the house of Israel called its name manna; it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.
	2) Water	Ex 17:1-3	
<p><i>¹⁷ All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and at Reph'idim; but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people found fault with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you find fault with me? Why do you put the Lord to the proof?”³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people murmured against Moses, and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?”</i></p>			
	God’s solution	Ex 17:5-7	⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand the rod with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out

			of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Mer’ibah, because of the faultfinding of the children of Israel, and because they put the LORD to the proof by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”
		Psalm 81:7	⁷ In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Mer’ibah.
	3) War with the Amalekites	Ex 17:8	⁸ Then came Am’alek and fought with Israel at Reph’idim.
	God’s solution	Ex 17:9-16	
<p>⁹ And Moses said to Joshua, “Choose for us men, and go out, fight with Am’alek; tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.” ¹⁰ So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Am’alek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹ Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Am’alek prevailed. ¹² But Moses’ hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat upon it, and Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. ¹³ And Joshua mowed down Am’alek and his people with the edge of the sword.</p> <p>¹⁴ And the LORD said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Am’alek from under heaven.” ¹⁵ And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD is my banner, ¹⁶ saying, “A hand upon the banner of the LORD! The LORD will have war with Am’alek from generation to generation.”</p>			
Judges	Moses is overworked	Ex 18:13-26	Jethro suggests setting up a hierarchy of judges to share the work
<p>¹³ On the morrow Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from morning till evening. ¹⁴ When Moses’ father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, “What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand about you from morning till evening?” ¹⁵ And Moses said to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to inquire of God; ¹⁶ when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between a man and his neighbor, and I make them</p>			

know the statutes of God and his decisions.”¹⁷ Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “What you are doing is not good.¹⁸ You and the people with you will wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you; you are not able to perform it alone.¹⁹ Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God, and bring their cases to God;²⁰ and you shall teach them the statutes and the decisions, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do.²¹ Moreover choose able men from all the people, such as fear God, men who are trustworthy and who hate a bribe; and place such men over the people as rulers of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.²² And let them judge the people at all times; every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves; so it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you.²³ If you do this, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.”

²⁴ So Moses gave heed to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.²⁵ Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.²⁶ And they judged the people at all times; hard cases they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves.

			Moses chose 70 elders for judges. Because of this, the later Sanhedrin was limited to seventy. Further, the problem of overwork Moses endured, was a problem for the Apostles so they created the position of deacon.
The Covenant	Three months after leaving Egypt, the Lord called Moses up on the mountain	Ex 19:3-6	
³ And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”			
	Consecration	Ex 19:9-14	

	of the people		
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⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, “Lo, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you for ever.” Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. ¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments, ¹¹ and be ready by the third day; for on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² And you shall set bounds for the people round about, saying, ‘Take heed that you do not go up into the mountain or touch the border of it; whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death; ¹³ no hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain.” ¹⁴ So Moses went down from the mountain to the people, and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments.

Summary:

- Did the Israelites have continuous faith in God and fully obey Him? What did He do about it?
- What are we supposed to do in the face of adversity?
- “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today.” Exodus 14:13 (Stand firm / stand still / stand your ground)

References:

1. Dunnam, Maxie, Mastering the Old Testament: Exodus, Lloyd J. Ogilvie, General Editor, Word Publishing, Dallas, TX, 1987.
2. Harper Study Bible, Revised Standard Version, Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, 1985.
3. NIV Bible on-line: www.Biblegateway.com

Bible Readings:

1) Exodus 13:17-19	2) Exodus 13:21-22
3) Matthew 17:5; Acts 1:9	4) Exodus 14:1-5
5) Exodus 14:10-11	6) Exodus 14:13-18
7) Exodus 14:26-31	8) Exodus 16:2-3
9) Exodus 16:4-7, 13-21	10) Exodus 17:1-3
11) Exodus 17:8	12) Exodus 19:3-6