

SONRISE

SMALLGROUPS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

MOSES: SEA PARTING FAITH (EXODUS 14)

MAIN POINT

Even as we face the most daunting circumstances of life, God calls us to trust Him for deliverance.

INTRODUCTION

- When was a time you faced a seemingly impossible situation?
- How did you respond? Where did you look for strength and comfort?

Sometimes we don't understand how we can get through the challenges of life, or why God has brought certain events and trials our way. When God called the Israelites out of Egypt, He promised to free them from their past as slaves into a new life as His people. To get there, they would have to follow Him step by step. Sometimes God's ways seem illogical or downright impossible. On the journey ahead, God would provide them many opportunities to trust Him. Would they persevere in faith, or would they be paralyzed by fear? Like believers today, sometimes they passed and sometimes they failed in the area of demonstrating persevering faith.

DISCUSSION

> Read Exodus 14:1-31.

- What unexpected problem were the Israelites facing in this passage? How did the Israelites react when they saw Pharaoh's troops approaching?
- What did the people do right in their terror? Where did they go wrong? Why do you think they began to blame Moses for their predicament?
- Since Moses didn't know how God was going to rescue His people, how could he be so confident of the Lord's salvation? How can we stand firm in our faith even when the situation is alarming?
- Where do you currently need to hear Moses' encouragement that the Lord will fight for you?
- What was God's purpose in setting up this conflict with the Egyptians by the sea? Why is this important to remember?
- What does this passage teach us about God's power over seemingly impossible situations?
- What was the Israelites' response to their deliverance?
- What strengthened the Israelites' faith? How does voicing what God has done in your life help you and others to persevere in faith?

APPLICATION

- What does persevering faith look like in the daily life of an “average” Christian? How might a person move toward faith when facing the most difficult of circumstances?
- What challenges in life are you facing now? How will you persevere in your faith in God?

COMMENTARY**Exodus 14:1-31**

By means of the pillars of cloud and fire, the Lord guided Israel from Succoth to the wilderness of Etham, just west of the Red (or Reed) Sea. There they appeared to be boxed in by the sea to the east, the deserts to the north and south, and the advancing Egyptian armies to the west. Once more the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh so that through his defeat Egypt would know that Yahweh is God. For a tense night the presence of the Lord guarded Israel from the armies of Egypt. Then Yahweh, in the most marvelous redemptive act of Old Testament times, opened up the sea so His people could go safely through while their enemies perished. For generations thereafter Israel commemorated its salvation by singing the triumphant songs of Moses and Miriam, hymns that praised Yahweh as the Sovereign and Savior.