



What is the aim of this "FOR" series of messages?

We're looking for a 100% participation in the FOR Initiative. Out of this series, Pastor Andrew wants three things to happen: (1) Those that made a financial commitment to FOR to continue faithfully, (2) Some of us to increase that commitment, and (3) For those that are new to become included in that journey we're taking together and to join us. **For more about FOR, visit FORinitiative.org**

EXODUS IS ABOUT A JOURNEY, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, ABOUT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE MIDST OF THE JOURNEY.

We're all on a journey—life is journey. We're also collectively on a journey as a church. A journey is a process of moving from a place we know to a destination we don't know. Sometimes that goes off without a hitch. But, sometimes the path we think we're going to take has unexpected detours because of things we didn't expect along the way. Nevertheless, we arrive at our destination. Many times, there are obstructions along the way that God protects us from that we may never know this side of eternity. When we feel like the journey took too long or wonder why things went a particular way, we have no idea how we've been protected.

1. How can detours in life's plans relate to faith? Can you share a detour that turned into a blessing?

A JOURNEY IS MOVING FROM A PLACE WE KNOW TO A PLACE WE DON'T.

In Exodus, the nation of Israel is taking a journey. They experienced things along their journey we can all relate to because they were moving from a place they knew to a place they didn't. We're moving from a place of generational familiarity to a place and opportunity that is unfamiliar. But at the onset of the journey, we can be assured that the God who found us then, and the God who is with us now, is the God who will meet us there. He is already ahead of us.

2. How does the concept that God is walking ahead of you affect your confidence you will arrive at the correct destination?

WHAT KEEPS US FROM TAKING THE BOLD STEPS OF FAITH THAT GOD WOULD CALL US INTO?

We like to drag our feet until things are situated first, but that doesn't allow us to demonstrate faith. Obstacles may present themselves along the journey. Sometimes we think obstacles are a reminder we're going the wrong direction when they are really opportunities for us to trust God in ways we couldn't figure it out and recognize God's guidance.

3. What potential obstacles and opportunities do you perceive about our church moving to the Rio Mesa location?

THE JOURNEY OF EXODUS WAS PREDICATED ON A PROMISE IN GENESIS

[Genesis 50:25] WHEN lets us know God WILL and that's who God is. AID means we are going to need assistance. Sometimes the aid God wants to provide isn't in the form we want it to be. We may pray for deliverance when God wants to meet us in the midst of the difficulties. He's going to meet us in the situation regardless of whether His help is in the form we'd prefer. We need to realize that God is with us along every step of our journey, both when we're feeling self-sufficient and when we're in need of aid. God reminded his people there would come a time he would dislodge them and they would need His assistance and He would be there for them.

4. What obstacles to faith make it hard to have confidence God will provide what is needed in the midst of difficulties?

AFTER A LONG TIME, WE TEND TO FORGET OR GET COMFORTABLE

[Exodus 2:28] From Genesis until Exodus, it was 430 years. That's a long time generationally to get comfortable, but things began to become uncomfortable for the Israelites as they were abused and in slavery. They began to think, "I don't think it's supposed to be like this." Some of us may have found ourselves in a place too long where we've forgotten some of the hopes and aspirations God placed in our hearts in the past. The older we get, the harder it is to lean on God's ability to move us forward in faith in contrast to our youth when we felt ready to take over the world. Or, we can find it hard to move forward because we've gotten comfortable over a long period of time instead of being proactive about where God is leading us at any time or under any circumstances. Sometimes, it takes discomfort to move us along.

5. Is there something that God whispered to you about an aspiration that needs to get dusted off?
6. How is the future of our church comfortable and/or uncomfortable as we're moving to next steps toward Rio Mesa?

THE FAMILIAR OFTEN PREVENTS US FROM MOVING FORWARD, BUT PREDICTABILITY IS NOT A BIBLICAL PROMISE.

[Phil. 4:10] Sometimes the divine trinity of our lives becomes safety, security, and stability instead of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We love the predictability of the familiar, so it's scary to move forward into unknowns. When Pastor Andrew moved as a child, what mattered was landing in a safe, secured place with parents that loved him and an assurance that eventually it would begin to feel like home. There were great memories from past places, but what was fantastic was the adventure ahead. Because God promises to supply all of our needs, we can alter our perspectives from self-focus to looking at the glorious riches of Jesus—from our deficiencies, to God's supremacies.

7. How does this relate to you personally and to your personal feelings about our church's future?

GOD HEARD, REMEMBERED, SAW, AND KNEW

[Exodus 2:23-25; Hebrews 4:15; Psalm 40:1] The emphasis in these verses isn't on what Israel did, but on who God is and what He could do. God's response to them in the past is still His response to us now. God hears: We can be confident God hears our cries for help. God remembers: The word doesn't imply God can forget, but that He's about to act for our welfare. God reminded Israel of the promise. God reminds us about the mission to which we're called—our purpose of reconciliation. God saw: God really sees you in a deep and intimate way. God knew: Jesus is able to sympathize with us. We don't have a lofty, dissociated God—he gets us! In Exodus, their prayer for deliverance echoed through space and time and was fulfilled in the finished work of Jesus for us. As we are reminded of the extent God went to express His love for us, we can move forward in faith.

8. How can we translate these concepts into a prayer for our church to move forward in God's purposes in our next steps?