



# BridgeChurch *Small Group Questions*



FOR SERIES WEEK #2: FORWARD \* SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023  
PASTOR ANDREW SMITH. \*.FOR MORE ABOUT "FOR" VISIT [FORinitiative.org](http://FORinitiative.org).

## THINGS ARE HAPPENING AS WE ARE FAITHFUL TO GOD!

Our personal journey with Jesus begins when we ask Jesus to come into our lives. At the same time, we are on a journey as a church to a destination where we believe God is taking us. In Exodus, we see things that can propel us forward or hold us back on a journey. As a church, the most important thing we need to remember is who God is: The God who sees you, hears you, knows you, and reminds you of your calling and significance. Instead of looking at our abilities or inabilities, we need to have a focus on who our God is! The plagues of Egypt were associated with each of the gods of Egypt and God showed his dominion higher than each of them. God was moving and doing great things. We're also seeing great things happening in the lives of people in our church family!

1. We are striving for 100% involvement with the FOR Initiative. This Sunday, we saw some video testimonies of people who committed to the FOR Initiative and have seen great things happening in their lives. Please share if you have a personal testimony of God's faithfulness as you've made a financial or prayer commitment to FOR!

## REMEMBER

**[Exodus 13:3] REMEMBER!** We can be forgetful people. After everything that happened with the plagues, the first thing God did was to establish the Passover to help the people remember—to remind them of who God is and what He has done. We need to be people who are intentional about being reminded of God's direction and faithfulness in our lives. The hope of us being reminded of God's future faithfulness is grounded on His past faithfulness—looking at the ways He has already moved in our lives. As God prepares the way, He will provide a way.

2. Share a time in your past when God was faithful to you that helps you remember you can rely on Him.

## THE JOURNEY WON'T GO ACCORDING TO OUR PLANS

**[Exodus 13:17-18]** Our plans don't always flesh out in the way we expected. The Israelites got detoured. We don't like detours. God knew something the Israelites had no clue about. This is important for us to remember in our own lives. What they were going to face, God knew would cause them to turn around and return to Egypt (and slavery). Our reality is that sometimes what we perceive as an inconvenience is God redirecting us for our own good. Have you ever considered that the thing that is not going the way you wanted or is taking longer than you expected is really God's protection and provision? We experience detours as a frustration, but looking back we sometimes acquire awareness of what God was protecting us from. But, God never explained His reasoning to the Israelites, so there may be many times we don't realize what God was doing for our good. We need to realize the times we can see God's protection and thank Him for the protections we don't see.

3. How to the times our "rear view mirror" realizations of God's protection help us trust for the times when we're just frustrated with a detour without an explanation?
4. Share a time when you had a revelation from the "rear view mirror."

## GOD MAY DELIBERATELY LEAD YOU INTO THE WILDERNESS

**[Exodus 13:18]** The wilderness is a time of waiting and refining. Hmm...let's take a trip to the DMV...who's in!? We don't like waiting. We also don't like refining because it involves challenging how we see things. God will use time in the proverbial wilderness. Moses was refined in the wilderness of Midian. Elijah hid in the wilderness from Jezebel where God provided for him. David fled from King Saul to the wilderness where a shepherd boy became a military leader and a future king. John the Baptist waited and was refined in the wilderness until the time to bring the message of repentance to the masses. Even Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to show us how to face temptation in our lives. The wilderness isn't a place we seek out on our own, but it's often a good place when God sends us there. The point of the journey is both the destination and the journey itself. The destination is important but we can underestimate the value of the journey because that's where we are changed.

5. How are your views getting challenged on the journey you are currently on?
6. Who is God trying to make you along the way?

## TAKE A MOMENT FOR A FAITH EXERCISE

7. Ask God what He wants to do in your life along the journey. Write it down! Ask him to do some revealing in the waiting. Ask what God wants you to remember during the detours and show you the things He is protecting you from.

## PRACTICAL PRACTICE ALONG THE JOURNEY

There are many ways that people help themselves remember what God has done for them in the past to help them trust God in the midst of future frustrations, challenges, and detours. By way of example, you might keep a faith journal, make margin notes in your Bible about how God is speaking to you, keep a rock garden where you paint on a stone an answer to prayer or times of God's faithfulness.

8. What are some ways you have done this or heard about others creating reminders of God's faithfulness?
9. Which one(s) will you choose to make a part of your faith journey?