

Series: NEW TERRITORY

8/16/2020

Message: Directions, Please

Text: Exodus 13:17-22

DIGGING DEEPER GUIDE

BIG IDEA: WITH GOD'S DIRECTIONS, SHORTER IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER

Getting Started

Tell about a time when you got lost going somewhere or didn't have the right directions. What happened? How did you feel?

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. How do you think the Israelites felt leaving Egyptian slavery in the middle of the night? What did freedom mean to them?
2. God did not lead them on the shorter route through the Philistine country. Why? (v.17-18)
3. Think of a time in your life when something took longer to complete than you thought (a degree, a project, etc.) What did you learn through that longer process?
4. The Israelites were led by a pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. How are we, as Christians, led by God today? Think about or share a specific example, if you have one.
5. When have you struggled to know how God was leading you? Think about or share a specific example, if you have one.
6. Read Proverbs 3:5-6 below. How can these verses help us during this time of uncertainty in our world and lives today?
7. What are the prayer requests on your mind today?

Prayer: Lord, these are challenging days in which we currently live. There seems to be a lot of waiting and wandering. Help us to trust that you are leading us into new territory and will give us everything that we need to get there. Help us to be patient and flexible in embracing each day that you have given to us. Amen.

Going Deeper: Read Exodus chapters 12-13 to get a larger context for the Israelite story. Imagine yourself as one of the Israelites who has been released from Egyptian slavery in this dramatic fashion. Would it have been easy to trust God?

FOCUS SCRIPTURES:

"God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though it was shorter. For God said, 'If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.' So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea." Exodus 13:17-18

"Trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6