



session

FROM EXODUS
TO PROMISE

Yes & No

1. I use GPS for every new place that I drive.
2. I dislike following a driver who drives like they don't know where they're going.
3. When you let Him, God will take you to your divine destination along the shortest route possible.
4. I have to see something before I really believe it.
5. Some of the impossible situations you find yourself in are actually caused by God.

dig deep

NO SHORTCUTS

» **READ Exodus 13:17, 18.**

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." 18 So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

∞ Why didn't God lead the Israelites along the shortest route?

› Couldn't God have wiped out the Philistines? Why didn't He at this time?

› The Israelites just left Egypt! Would they really choose to return there? Why?

‹ Do people who are slaves to sin respond the same way after they've experienced freedom? Why?

∞ Verse 18 says that the Israelites were ready for battle? What do you think this means? Was God disagreeing with them?

Notes

Life IN THE Wilderness



dig deep continued...

» READ Exodus 13:20-22.

20 After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. 21 By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

∞ For the first time in human history, God chose to present Himself with a constant physical manifestation, day and night. Of all the shapes, symbols and materials that God could have used to represent His leadership, why do you think He chose the pillar of cloud and fire?

» READ Exodus 14:1-4.

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3 Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' 4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." So the Israelites did this.

∞ What does this behavior tell you about the character of God?

∞ Why do you think God did this? Why didn't He just lead them directly to the trap point beside the Red Sea?

∞ Did God really "harden" Pharaoh's heart and cause him to change his mind about the loss of the Israelites?

» READ Exodus 14:10-14.

10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

∞ After witnessing the 10 Plagues of Egypt, why do you think the Israelites were so quick to become desperately afraid?

∞ What does it mean that "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still"? Is there something I'm responsible to do in the battle over me?

1. When has God taken me on "the long route?"

2. Am I letting God lead me, even during the times it feels like I'm backtracking?

3. What new element of God's character does He want me to know this week?

Embrace Life