**BCM Bible Study: October 14/15, 2020**

**Exodus 13:17 - 15:21: Crossing The Red Sea**

Take some time to talk about the Redemption Worksheet from last week’s challenge.

We are continuing to look at the Israelites’ exodus to the land that God has promised. The Israelites will fail at recognizing God’s power again, and God still preserves and redeems.

**Read Exodus 13:17 – 21**

* Despite being “Equipped for battle” and getting wealth from the Egyptians, God knew his people enough to know they would not handle a war despite having the physical means (and God on their side). He already knows their feeble faith, yet his plan still included patiently fighting for them and rescuing them. When was a time in your life where you were fully equipped to do something, but still did not do something or delayed what God was calling you to do?
* It is mentioned that Joseph’s bones were taken out of Egypt as he requested. **Read Genesis 50:25 and Hebrews 11:22.** What does this fulfillment of this teach us about God?
* What is the significance of the pillar of fire and pillar of cloud?

**Read Exodus 14:1-14**

* Why does God say he will have Pharaoh change his mind and pursue Israel?
* What does Pharaoh do to pursue Israel? Why do we know that is foolish? What are things in culture that people build up only to seem foolish in light of a true, powerful God?
* Pharaoh is considered an anti-God figure, he wants to be the most powerful, seen as a god and not yield to another. He attempts to control the Israelites through slavery and killing the sons to lower the population. He tries to dismiss the work of God by recreating the plagues with his magicians. What are some things in our culture that are Anti-God? How can we share the gospel in those places?
* How did the people react when they saw the Egyptian army coming? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
* The Israelites have a tendency to believe the worst and be blinded by fear and doubt, despite having a physical reminder of fire and cloud right in front of them (“it never left”). What is something that triggers or amplifies your doubt in God’s power and sovereignty?
* How did Moses Respond? What is the significance of “you only have to be silent?” What are things God uses to remind you of who He is?

 v. 14 – This is a universal truth on how everything is in God’s control and just like our salvation there is nothing we do to receive it. We can’t save ourselves. It is God who does the rescuing. We were dead. God saved us from sin and breathed life worthy of himself into us and we get to be a part of building his kingdom. There is nothing we can do to assist us getting to heaven, just as the Israelites could do nothing, but watch and wait for the Almighty to rescue them

**Read Exodus 14:15 - 31**

* What is the significance of the pillar moving behind Israel? So far, we have seen God have power over many things. What are some examples? Do we often reflect on how these are still true today? Why or Why not?
* In verse 25, Egypt finally recognized God for who he is, but it was too late. They even fled into the sea to their own destruction, despite saying they wanted to get away. This reflects how God will sometimes let people go to their own devices. Egypt wanted to follow Israel and so God let them. Have you witnessed anyone go to their own devices, someone becoming more and more stubborn in their ways turning from God? How did that make you feel?  What ways do you think it would be easiest for you to turn to your own devices and neglect God?
* What do we learn or recognize about God from this chapter?
* The crossing of the Red Sea and the liberation of Israel from the Egyptians set the precedence of God rescuing and redeeming his people. How do we see this reflected in our salvation?
* In Hebrews, we see Jesus compared to Moses. **Read Hebrews 3:1-6.** How does Moses and the crossing of the Red Sea foreshadow Jesus and redemption? How is Jesus better than Moses?

The crossing of the Red Sea is not supposed to tell us how we can escape our own personal issues or triumph when things seem impossible, but it points to the global gift of redemption through salvation in Jesus. God set the stage for the world to see his power over creation and his ability to rescue the powerless, making a people group set apart for his purposes.

**Read Exodus 15:1 - 21**

* What is the overall tone of the song? What words or phrases stand out to you the most and why?
* Verse 2 states how the generations before followed God and they will too. Does your parent’s/family’s history reflect the way you want to serve God in the future? Why or why not?
* What is the purpose of the song?
* We also know the Israelites do a horrible job of remembering God and his faithfulness throughout history, despite having this song. How can we avoid the same tendencies?

Challenge:

This week, create reminders of God’s faithfulness to us:

1. Journal everyday ways you have seen God be faithful in your life so far

2. Make a visual reminder such as a picture college, a painting or sticky notes reminding you of some things he has done that you can post or display somewhere

3. Create a playlist of songs that remind you of God’s faithfulness

4. Meet up with someone and talk about the ways God has been faithful in your life

Notes:

Chapter 15: There is some speculation on when the song was written, or if it was edited later because it mentions nations they haven’t encountered yet. Either the song is predicting the clashes or was added later in the time of the prophets to serve as reminder. Either way the song alludes to the fact God has the victory over the Egyptians and is a warrior who is over nature and nations. The enemies they mention that are defeated can be referring to God having the final and eternal victory, not necessarily the moments of victory in all cases. The song is clearly written with a “God’s Eye View.”

In verse 13, The holy dwelling or abode could be referring to 3 different things: Mount Sinai, Mount Zion ( the temple), or Canaan, the promised land. All three things coincide with the purposes of going to freedom to serve and worship God and shows his sovereign planning in all things.

Rahab is the Egyptian god of water.  The song is using poetic language to say God defeated Rahab when he controlled the water. It is not that Rahab or the other gods mentioned in this song are actual gods, but that God has power over all things whether evil spiritual powers like satan/demons or made up ideas of man.