



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
LEWISVILLE

## Session 2

# Trusting God to Lead Us

### Summary and Goal

We can have assurance that God will lead us, no matter how dangerous our surroundings. We don't need to know what lies ahead. We only need to know that He is leading us, and we can move forward in trust.

#### ***Main Passages***

Exodus 13

#### ***Session Outline***

1. First Things First (Ex. 13:1-2,11-16)
2. Remember This Day (Ex. 13:3-10)
3. Guiding the Way (Ex. 13:17-22)

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#### ***Theological Theme***

We can trust God's leadership in the middle of unknown circumstances.

#### ***Christ Connection***

When the Hebrew people were enslaved in Egypt, the Lord used the Passover to deliver them. This event points forward to the true Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ.

#### ***Missional Application***

In every circumstance, our calling remains the same—to follow the Lord and bring others with us as He leads us to the promised land.

# Historical Context of Exodus

## Purpose

The Book of Exodus shows God at work with the goal of having such close fellowship with people that he is described as dwelling among them. He rescued the Israelites in order to make himself known, not only by the exercise of his power but also through an ongoing covenant relationship based on his capacity for patience, grace, and forgiveness. The record of what the Lord did for the Israelites provided grounds for them to recognize him as their God who deserved their complete loyalty and obedience. This record would make clear to the Israelites their identity as God's people and would continue the display of his glorious identity.

## Author

The Book of Exodus does not state who its author was. It does refer to occasions when Moses made a written record of events that took place and what God had said (17:14; 24:4, 7; 34:27–28). The book also contains references to preserving and passing on information. Along with the other four books of the Pentateuch, it has long been considered to be primarily the work of Moses. Moses could have written Exodus at any time during a forty-year time span: after the Israelites finished constructing and dedicating the tabernacle at Mount Sinai, at the start of their second year after leaving Egypt (1445 BC), and before his death in the land of Moab (about 1406 BC).

## Setting

Exodus picks up where the Genesis narrative ended with the death of Joseph around 1805 BC. It quickly moves us forward almost three hundred years to a time in Egypt when the circumstances of Jacob's descendants had changed. The Israelites were serving as slaves during Egypt's Eighteenth Dynasty, probably under the pharaohs Thutmose and Amenhotep II. The Hebrew slaves experienced a miraculous deliverance by God's hand through his servant-leader Moses. The Israelite slavery ended in 1446 BC. The book of Exodus records the events surrounding the exodus from Egypt and the Israelites' first year in the wilderness, including the giving of the law.

## Special Features

The title "Exodus" is an anglicized version of a Greek word that means "departure" in recognition of one of the book's major events—the departure of God's people from Egypt. Exodus could be considered the central book in the Old Testament because it records God's act of saving the Israelites and establishing them as a covenant community, a nation chosen to serve and represent him. Exodus describes the enslavement and oppression of the Israelites; the preparation and call of Moses; the conflict between Yahweh the God of Israel and the gods of Egypt (represented by Pharaoh); the exodus of the Israelites; their establishment as a nation in covenant with the Lord; their rebellion; and the Lord's provision for their ongoing relationship, symbolized by his presence at the tabernacle they built for him.

# 2

## Condensed Leader Guide

# Trusting God to Lead Us

### ? For Further Discussion

What promises of God can we count on as we move forward? Why is it important that we be confident God will do what He promises?

### Introduction

- ? What past event at First Baptist Church Lewisville is something you want to remember? Why is that particular event important to you?
- ? How do you feel about the future of First Baptist Church Lewisville (i.e. anxious, confident, determined, etc.)? Explain.

The Hebrew people would observe the Passover celebration when they arrived in the promised land as a continual reminder of God's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. The time had come for God to deliver on His promise to lead His people into their future. We can trust that God will lead us too.

### 1. First Things First (Ex. 13:1-2,11-16)

Throughout Exodus 13, we see God leading His people both to remember His faithfulness in the past and also to trust His leadership in the future. Sometimes we find ourselves consumed with the past—at the neglect of the present and future—or consumed with the present and future at the neglect of the past. We must learn to remember and celebrate God's work in the past while at the same time walking the steps He is calling us to take now for the sake of future generations.

- ? From verses 14-16, what effect would the consecration of the firstborn have on Israel's future?
- ? Why do you think God wanted His people to be continually reminded of what had transpired in Egypt?
- ? What are some things we can do to continually remember what God has done in our lives at First Baptist Church Lewisville? What is the difference between remembering the past and living in the past?

## 2. Remember This Day (Ex. 13:3-10)

It's easy for God's people to forget all the miraculous ways God has worked on their behalf. Remembering what He has done fuels our worship and builds faith that He will continue to care for us in every circumstance.

- ❓ Why might God have wanted Israel to wait until they entered the promised land to begin observing Passover?
- ❓ Why are we prone to forget God's leading and provision in our lives in times of prosperity?
- ❓ What does the word "festival" (v. 6) tell you about the attitude with which God desired His people to remember His mighty acts?
- ❓ What important truths of our faith do we need to pass down to our children? How can we do that? Why should we?

## 3. Guiding the Way (Ex. 13:17-22)

God did not lead the Israelites on the most direct route, one that would take them to the land of the Philistines. Threat of war might have caused them to turn around and return to Egypt. The Philistines had strong military training and were mentally prepared, while the Israelites were in a time of stressful transition. Instead, God led them toward the desert of the Red Sea, away from the surrounding threats. Before they even knew what to ask, God showed the people He was trustworthy to lead them.

- ❓ Put yourself in the Israelites' situation. What might they have been thinking when Pharaoh first let them go?
- ❓ Where do you see another example of the Israelites' commitment to remembrance in this passage? What did Joseph's past request say about his belief in God's promises?
- ❓ What did God provide His people as a guide? Describe the importance of this beyond the direction it gave them. Has God ever taken you through a difficult place? How did He lead you? How did He protect you?

## Conclusion

- ❓ The people in Israel were in Egypt much longer than they intended to be, but God still kept His promise to deliver them. How might this apply to a situation where you are waiting for God to intervene? How can you be faithful to God as you wait for Him to act?
- ❓ Is there something God is leading you to do that you have not responded to? What is keeping you from moving?

### ❓ For Further Discussion

What does it tell us about the character and trustworthiness of God that He chose to lead the Israelites on a less threatening route due to their current situation and state of mind?

### ❓ For Further Discussion

As believers on this side of the cross, what truths about the Christian faith must we constantly remind ourselves of? What truths do you want your children and grandchildren to be constantly aware of?



## Expanded Leader Guide

# Trusting God to Lead Us



### Introduction

- ❓ What past event at First Baptist Church Lewisville is something you want to remember? Why is that particular event important to you?
- ❓ How do you feel about the future of First Baptist Church Lewisville (i.e. anxious, confident, determined, etc.)? Explain.
- ❓ What promises of God can we count on as we move forward? Why is it important that we be confident God will do what He promises?


Certainly God has moved in us and around us at First Baptist Church Lewisville. We remember and often celebrate the moments in our lives that are life-changing. Those instrumental moments that make us different people are acknowledged in different ways, based on the reasons for remembering them.

As a means for remembering what God had done, the Passover feast would become a permanent ordinance in Israel. The Passover celebration served to foreshadow future sacrifices and offerings for atonement, while the meal represented the fellowship they would enjoy with God. Notably, the Hebrew people would observe the Passover celebration when they arrived in the promised land as a continual reminder of God's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. The time had come for God to deliver on His promise to lead His people into their future. We can trust that God will lead us too.

## 1. First Things First (Ex. 13:1-2,11-16)

-  From verses 14-16, what effect would the consecration of the firstborn have on Israel's future?
-  Why do you think God wanted His people to be continually reminded of what had transpired in Egypt?

God wanted the Jews to remember His grace and power more often than once a year during the Passover celebration. He placed a special designation on the firstborns of the nation of Israel. God saved the firstborn sons from death when He passed over their homes and delivered them out of Egypt. So all firstborns would belong to God, sanctified and set apart as God's possession. This ordinance would take effect when the Jews reached the promised land. (See Lev 12; Num 18:14.)

-  What are some things we can do to continually remember what God has done in our lives at First Baptist Church Lewisville? What is the difference between remembering the past and living in the past?

Throughout Exodus 13, we see God leading His people both to remember His faithfulness in the past and also to trust His leadership in the future. Sometimes we find ourselves consumed with the past—at the neglect of the present and future—or consumed with the present and future at the neglect of the past. We must learn to remember and celebrate God's work in the past while at the same time walking the steps He is calling us to take now for the sake of future generations.

## 2. Remember This Day (Ex. 13:3-10)

-  Why might God have wanted Israel to wait until they entered the promised land to begin observing Passover?

- Why are we prone to forget God's leading and provision in our lives in times of prosperity?

It's easy for God's people to forget all the miraculous ways God has worked on their behalf. Remembering what He has done fuels our worship and builds faith that He will continue to care for us in every circumstance.

- What does the word "festival" (v. 6) tell you about the attitude with which God desired His people to remember His mighty acts?

The time was to begin and end with a feast—a party! Remembering what God had done was not a somber or joyless endeavor, it was a celebration. The whole family was to be involved. Part of the observance included instructing their children that it was God who brought them out of Egypt. He was the one who brought them out to take them as His own possession.

- What important truths of our faith do we need to pass down to our children? How can we do that? Why should we?

### 3. Guiding the Way (Ex. 13:17-22)

God did not lead the Israelites on the most direct route, one that would take them to the land of the Philistines. Threat of war might have caused them to turn around and return to Egypt. The Philistines had strong military training and were mentally prepared, while the Israelites were in a time of stressful transition. Instead, God led them toward the desert of the Red Sea, away from the surrounding threats. Before they even knew what to ask, God showed the people He was trustworthy to lead them.

- Put yourself in the Israelites' situation. What might they have been thinking when Pharaoh first let them go?

- ❓ What does it tell us about the character and trustworthiness of God that He chose to lead the Israelites on a less threatening route due to their current situation and state of mind?

Sometimes God leads us through testing, while at other times He directs us around temptation. He, in His wisdom, knows which circumstances are best for us to grow stronger and which circumstances will cripple us spiritually.

- ❓ Where do you see another example of the Israelites commitment to remembrance in this passage? What did Joseph's past request say about his belief in God's promises?
- ❓ What did God provide His people as a guide? Describe the importance of this beyond the direction it gave them.

The Israelites remembered the oath to Joseph and carried his bones with them to be buried in the land of Canaan. Joseph knew that Egypt was not their final resting place, but that God would keep His promise and deliver them to a new land.




In addition to the physical reminder of Joseph's trust in God, God Himself led the Hebrew nation by a pillar of cloud to guide them by day and a pillar of fire to provide light by night.

- ❓ Has God ever taken you through a difficult place? How did He lead you? How did He protect you?

Once again, God demonstrated through the Passover and Exodus that He keeps His Word. The people of Israel were to remember God's faithfulness and continually rely on Him as they entered the promised land. We, too, must remember the faithfulness of God and rely on Him as we enter new seasons of life, when facing uncertainty and transition as individuals and as a church body.



## Conclusion

-  The people in Israel were in Egypt much longer than they intended to be, but God still kept His promise to deliver them. How might this apply to a situation where you are waiting for God to intervene? How can you be faithful to God as you wait for Him to act?
-  As believers on this side of the cross, what truths about the Christian faith must we constantly remind ourselves of? What truths do you want your children and grandchildren to be constantly aware of?
-  Is there something God is leading you to do that you have not responded to? What is keeping you from moving?

## Prayer of Response

*Praise God for keeping every promise. Give thanks for His redemption and deliverance from sin. Ask Him to help you faithfully follow Him as He leads you, whether He is leading us away from temptation or into a difficult position. Acknowledge that you know He will keep His promises and see you through.*

## Family Discussion

### Family Discussion Questions for Children

- *This week we talked about trusting God as He leads us. Another way of asking, "How is God leading you?" is to ask, "What is God teaching you right now?" Is there a situation in your life where God might be trying to teach you something?*
- *As God leads us, or teaches us, we need to learn to remember those things. What is something you've learned about God that you don't want to ever forget? How can you remind yourself?*

### Family Discussion Questions for Teens

- *Share your testimony with your teen(s). Include a time you were in a transition and needed to trust God's leadership when it was difficult.*
- *The Israelites had Joseph's bones as a reminder of God's promises and also God's presence in a cloud during the day and fire at night. What has God given you to help you remember His promises and faithfulness?*
- *What is a situation where you need to follow God's leadership but aren't sure how?*

## For Next Week

### Session Title

- Preparing to Follow God

### Main Scripture

- Deuteronomy 34; Joshua 3-4

### Session Outline

1. Transition of Leadership (Deut. 34:1-12)
2. Flood Stage Obedience (Josh. 3:1-17)
3. Standing in Awe (Josh. 4:1-24)

### Memorize

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own understanding;  
in all your ways know him,  
and he will make your paths straight.  
—Proverbs 3:5-6

## Extended Commentary

### Exodus 13:1-22

13:1-16. When God delivered the firstborn of the Israelites from the fate of the Egyptian firstborn, he set them apart for special consecration (Num. 3:13; 8:17). They were seen as the strength of the family and were thus given to God as the first fruits of God's blessing to each family. The same was true for all of the firstborn animals. God repeated the instructions for observing the Feast of Unleavened Bread and commanded them to observe the ordinance after they arrived in the land he promised them.

Part of the observance included instructing their children that it was God who brought them out of Egypt. He was the one who brought them out to take them as his own possession. In addition, they were to remember that the vital union between them and God included a strict observance of his holy law. Later he would command priests and kings to rule faithfully and instruct the people in the law. The law was the very expression of the will of God, a reflection of his nature. Jesus would later in the Sermon on the Mount give an exposition of the true meaning of the law in heart, life, and practice. Although the civic and ceremonial law was to be fulfilled in Christ, the law itself as an expression of God's will and nature will outlast the earth itself (Matt. 5:18).

Once in the land, the people were to give to God the firstborn by redeeming them with a set amount (fixed in Num. 3:47 at five shekels). Later, in place of the firstborn, God would set aside the entire tribe of Levi for his special service. The primary thought behind the consecration of the firstborn was a reminder of God's miraculous deliverance of the Hebrew people from Egypt.

13:17-22. God did not take the Israelites on the more direct route, one that would take them through the environs of the Philistines in and around Gaza. Any further crisis might scare them into turning back to Egypt. The Philistines were militarily superior to the Israelites in equipment, training, and psychological readiness. So the Israelites would venture out toward the desert of the Red Sea away from neighboring threats. They also remembered Joseph's last request and brought his bones with them in order to bury them in the land of Canaan.

The Israelites first journeyed to Etham, where they traveled for three days (Num. 33:8). God himself would directly lead them and did so by the appearance of a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light. The pillar remained in front of them at all times. The pillar was an obvious sign of God's presence among them, a supernatural phenomenon of divine origin. They were led all the way to the promised land by means of this pillar. They were never to forget that if they were to survive as a nation, they would have to submit to God's leading in their lives after they settled in the land.

