

Discussion / Reflection Guide -- “Divine Detour”
Week of March 18, 2018

Read Exodus 13:17-22; James 1:2-4; & 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

- God was leading the Israelites in a pretty spectacular way (Ex. 13:21-22), but he didn’t take the most direct route. He chose a “divine detour” which was tough, long and hard. His detour was filled with impossible challenges in which the Israelites had no choice but to totally rely on Him. Try to put yourself in their “shoes” with the challenges they faced in Exodus 14-17.
- Why did God lead them through these challenges? See Exod. 13:17. Why doesn’t He just remove all of our troubles instead and make our life easy? What did He say about this in James 1:2-4?
- We have all gone through difficult times. Some of the challenges may have seemed impossible at the time. What are some of the “impossible” situations you have faced in your life? How did you get through those times? What are some lessons you learned as a result of these experiences? How have those lessons helped you in life?
- Sometimes the lessons we learn in the hard times are not necessarily for our benefit. Sometimes they are intended to help others. Consider 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. Have you been able to help others because of a difficult “detour” God placed in your life?
- What is the primary message / lesson is God telling you right now about his “divine detours” in your life?