

EXODUS 13:17-22

Following God's Leading

I. God led His people in a way that was best, but not _____.

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." v. 17

PRINCIPLE: God knows the best way for us because He knows _____.

II. God led His people in a way that was orderly, but not _____.

But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. v. 18

PRINCIPLE: The long way is not always the _____ way.

III. God led His people in a way that was clear, but not _____.

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people. vv. 21-22

PRINCIPLE: Contentment with God's presence is more satisfying than arriving at a _____.

FOLLOW GOD'S LEADING

Allow God's _____ to illuminate your path.

Trust God's _____ when you don't understand His instructions.

Take the _____ obedient step.

GOD'S STRENGTH IS
STRONGER

HOME GROUP STUDY & DEVOTIONAL

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Exodus 13:17-22. What factors did God take into account when selecting Israel's route to Canaan? What does this tell you about Him?
2. God chose the long route for Israel instead of the short route. When in your life has God taken you the long way, and how can your knowledge from that experience encourage others?
3. God didn't show His people their entire route, just the next step. Why do you think God tends to guide us in this way? What would we lose if we knew the whole journey ahead of time?
4. What was the sign of God's presence with His people, and what did it do for them?
5. God visibly guided the Israelites on their way. How does God guide believers today? How has He guided you personally?
6. How would your life change if you focused more on contentment with God in the present moment rather than focusing on a destination you have in mind? What are some ways you can shift your focus more to the Lord?
7. It can be helpful to focus on what you *do* know instead of what you *don't* know. Write down Scriptures or characteristics of God you know from times He guided you in the past. How does reviewing past lessons help you face what you don't know about the future?
8. What points from the sermon were especially helpful or encouraging to you, and why?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10, 4:7-11 and 12:7-10 to see different ways God uses to teach us to depend more fully on Him. How do they speak to your life now? What other Scriptures teach similar lessons?

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

Nothing takes God by surprise, for in His providence He plans the best way for His people to take. We may not always understand the way He chooses, or even agree with it, but His way is always the right way. We may confidently say, "He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" (Ps 23:3 NKJV), and we should humbly pray, "Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me" (25:4-5 NKJV). ... If you permit the Lord to direct your steps (Prov 3:5-6), expect to be led occasionally on paths that may seem unnecessarily long and circuitous. Remind yourself that God knows what He's doing, He isn't in a hurry, and as long as you follow Him, you're safe and in the place of His blessing. He may close some doors and suddenly open others, and we must be alert (Acts 16:6-10; 2 Cor 2:12-13).

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This people who had spent many long years in slavery were now starting out for the promised land, and it is beautiful to see this tender concern for them. It exemplifies a principle of general application in connection with the Lord's dealings with His people. The Lord is not only very compassionate, but His mercies are "tender" (Jas 5:11). The Lord does not suffer His "babes" to be tested as severely as those who are more mature; witness the various trials to which He subjected Abraham—the command for him to offer Isaac was not the first but the last great test which he received. It was so here with Israel. Later, there would be much fighting when Canaan was reached, but at the beginning He led them not the way of the land of the Philistines, for that would have involved warfare. He had respect unto their weakness and timidity.

ARTHUR PINK

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit ccbcfamily.org/events.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

EXPLORE EXODUS IN THE BMR

RESOURCES Right now, we're walking through Exodus together on Sundays, and there's an opportunity for you to go deeper throughout the week with our Exodus devotional, available in the Christ Chapel App under the Connect tab. It's a great way to explore how God leads, provides and fulfills his promises — even in the wilderness. You'll also find other BE, MAKE + REACH resources designed for every age and stage, from conversation guides to ways you can serve and share your faith.

PLACES FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO GROW

Every relationship has room to grow, and we want to help you grow in the right direction with Christ at the center! If you're dating or engaged, AVENEW is a great place to start building a strong, biblical foundation. If you're married and looking to deepen your relationship, Relengage is here to help you reconnect through faith. You can find out more at ccbcfamily.org/marriage.

ETERNAL IMPACT STARTS HERE Summer's here, and it's the perfect time to invest in something eternal. Kids Ministry needs helping hands and kind hearts to create a space where kids can learn to know and love Jesus. No special skills required — just a willingness to show up and make a difference. Whether it's four Sundays or the whole summer, your time can shape a child's faith and leave a lasting impact. Jump in and see what God can do through you this season. Sign up at ccbcfamily.org/session.

SERVING WIDOWS AND SINGLE MOMS

Once a month, a group of men comes together to serve the widows and single moms of Christ Chapel with practical help and a heart full of compassion. From yardwork to home repairs, they offer their time and hands to lighten burdens and show God's love in tangible, meaningful ways. No special skills are needed—just a willingness to help and care. If you feel called to be part of this caring crew, we'd love to hear from you. Learn more at ccbcfamily.org/manpower.

PRAY FOR KIDSCAMP KidsCamp is almost here, and we're so excited for our biggest outreach of the year! Please pray that every child who walks through our doors experiences the joy of knowing Jesus, grows stronger in their faith and takes home life-changing truths.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.