



## GROUP GUIDE • MESSAGE BY ANDREW MATRONE

### START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

**How many of us played sports when we were younger? Can you tell us the story of when you finally realized your dream of being a professional would not be a reality?**

### SHARE

Welcome to this week's LG Weekly study called "Surrounded".

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you simply felt overwhelmed? Where no matter what you did, it seemed as though there just wasn't a way out? As each of us live our lives, there will be times where a situation will start to overwhelm us. When we don't have the money to pay the rent and we have a flat tire, when we get a diagnosis from a doctor and the prognosis isn't good, when a relationship seems so broken that we can't see a way for there to be reconciliation.

The children of Israel understood this sort of situation all too well. Let's read about it in:

### Exodus 14:5-12

Most of us have probably heard or read about the story of the Israelites fleeing Egypt multiple times. Over time it can be easy for the impact of what this nation of people was going through to wear off. But let's try to understand this, that an ENTIRE NATION had just fled the land of a people who had ENSLAVED them for generations. And when they finally have the freedom they've dreamt about for generations, they encounter the geographical reality of the Red Sea. They find themselves with a sea in front of them, and an army behind them. Understandably, they struggle to fathom how they can get out of this situation.

**Pharaoh and his servants had just endured 10 plagues that rocked their entire nation. Why did they suddenly regret letting the Israelites go?**

**After seeing all of the miracles that brought them out of Egypt, why were the Israelites so quick to doubt that God could deliver them?**

**Has there ever been a time in your life when you have struggled to see a way out of an awful situation?**

## GROW

It's easy to say that God "has a plan for our lives," that he has "plans to prosper you," and other spiritual clichés when everything is going well. But there are times in everyone's life where those words are going to ring hollow. Oftentimes the enemy will use our situation to cloud our view of all of the good things that God has done for us. Think about the Israelites – God had just delivered them from Egypt, yet they seem to have forgotten about his power when the Egyptian army is on their tail. Let's read:

**Exodus 14: 13-14**

**Do you think that the people of Israel were initially receptive to Moses' plan of action?**

**Have you ever been frustrated with someone when they have tried to give you advice in a hard time?**

**Why is it so important to continually remind ourselves of the great things God has done for us? Why is it sometimes so hard to remember?**

## MOVE

We all know the end of the story here. In a mighty and miraculous way, God saves the people of Israel from their attackers. Let's read:

**Exodus 14: 21-31**

Obviously, God does not part large bodies of water every single day. There is a reason that this story has transcended throughout culture and history, even leading to Batman portraying Moses on the big screen. God very clearly intervened in this situation to provide a way of escape for the Israelites, and made it abundantly clear through the process that it was a supernatural occurrence.

**Has there ever been a time in your life where God has done something huge to provide relief in a tough situation? Has there been a time that God hasn't?**

**Why doesn't God always answer prayers in such a giant, obvious way?**

When God does not intervene in our lives in a miraculous way, it can be difficult to understand why. Is there something that you did wrong? Sometimes people might even tell you that if God doesn't answer your prayers that there must be sin in your life. We will always struggle to fully understand why God does the things that He does, but we can always trust in the promises that we are given in scripture. Let's read:

**Romans 8:18, 24-25, 28**

**John 16:33**

**When we go through trials, what are some things we can do to keep from losing our hope?**

## PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

