**Exodus Lesson 8 (2018)**

**THE CROSSING THE RED SEA**

(From Crisis to Triumph)

Exodus 13:17-14:31

 Impossible jams converge on us at the most unlikely moments. One minute we’re cruising down the freeway at 60 mph, and the next instant we jam on the brakes. For the next two hours we’re stuck. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could wave a magic wand and unclog the whole mess? Lie is like that. God leads us in and out of jams to test our mettle. In this study, Israel’s moment of glorious freedom was shattered by an advancing army. Seemingly, disaster looked. But God had some things to prove to Egypt, Israel and Moses. Painful lessons indeed.

**Open it:**

1. When recent crisis has brought you to your wit’s end, and why?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 17-22. What was God’s reason for directing the Israelites toward the Red Sea? (17-18) Of what possible benefit are God’s detours in our lives? How did God supernaturally use fire and clouds to lead the Israelites? (20-22)
2. Read 14:1-4. What plan does God reveal to Moses? What is God’s ultimate purpose? (also see 7:5) How do you think Moses felt when God gave him specific direction?
3. Read verses 5-12. How did Pharaoh react when he was told that the Israelites left? (5-9) How did Israelites react to the onslaught of the Egyptians, and why? (10-12) What did this test reveal about their hearts?
4. Read verses 13-20. Compare each part of Moses’ commands (13-14) with the Israelites’ conditions and attitude (10-12)? What did God’s plan for escape require of Moses and the people? (15-18) Who was used to protect the Israelites? (19-20)
5. Read verses 21-31. What miraculous events took place at the Red Sea? Think about times when you have felt like Israel, trapped between the Egyptians and the Red Sea. What did you do and why?

**Apply it:**

1. How can you give your fears to God this week? How can this passage help you in threatening experiences you face in following God, now or in the future?