

Journeying with God

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We are on an exciting journey! We are discovering what it means to be 'Church', and we are being transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ!

We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

We are not like this now. But we sure want to be like Jesus!

Our vision:

To bring people to a passionate relationship with God where Jesus Christ has first place in everything

Our guiding Scripture: 1 Peter 2:1-10

- Crave maturity in Christ
- Come to Jesus as the source
- Build everything on Him
- Be the people of God that give Him pleasure
- Focus on sharing this with others so that we bring light into our dark world.

Our core values:

- Being a family
- Being missional
- Being open to try things
- Being relevant for our culture
- Loving God, others and ourselves
- The Lordship of Christ
- The authority of the Scriptures
- Recognising and using our gifts
- Serving others
- Being passionate and authentic

Will you journey with us towards maturity in Christ?

In practice this means:

Deconstruction	Looking at what we believe and do, honestly and openly. Identifying what is of God, and what is helpful. Identifying what is not of God and what is not helpful.
Reconstruction	Being open to the Holy Spirit and to each other. Listening to God and to each other. Searching the Scriptures to find God's Word to us. Exploring new possibilities together. Taking risks. Being committed to personal growth. Being committed to loving supporting and caring for each other. Withholding judgement, criticism, personality attacks and undermining. Honestly evaluating whether what we are doing is effective, helpful and whether it is God's will. Staying open to further change.

Our journey will be similar to that of God's people as they came out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Maybe we can learn some lessons from their experiences?



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1. Leaving the old ways behind (Egypt to Mt Sinai)

- Initially the old ways were great. They provided security and a meeting of needs. Egyptian (worldly) ways are very tempting! Genesis 46:3,4
- Gradually God's people came into bondage. Exodus 1:12-14
- They called out to God to rescue them and God raised up an unlikely leader: Moses.
- God offered them something far better than Egypt: their own inheritance in the Promised Land (Canaan – a land flowing with milk and honey). Exodus 3:7,8
- Egypt tried very hard to keep them. (Through Pharaoh). Exodus 5:2
- God said He would lead them through to the Promised Land (with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night). Exodus 13: 21, 22 and provide for all their needs along the way (with manna and water from the Rock). Exodus 16:4
- God established a covenant with them. If they would obey Him, He would be their God, and they would be His people. Exodus 19:5,6

Key issues:

- salvation by the shedding of the blood of the Lamb
- laying aside the things that give security
- being willing to change
- choosing to move from bondage into freedom
- obedience to God
- trusting in God

Key Scripture:

I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgement. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you into the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD. Exodus 6:6-8

Symbolically:

The covenant was confirmed by making stone pillars, one for each tribe.

We will do everything the LORD has said. We will obey. Exodus 24:7

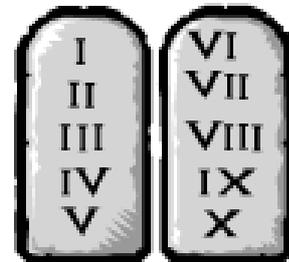


2. Testing for authenticity (Mt Sinai to Kadesh Barnea)

- Once God got His people out of Egypt He then had to get Egypt out of them! That's what the wilderness is for! They could have got to the Promised Land in about a week, but it took 40 years to get Egypt out of them.
- They had God's promise for a better future. To inherit the promise they had to fulfill the conditions ie. obey God. (Promises are fine, but it's much better if you receive what the promise promises!). Leviticus 11:45
- When it seemed that they were not making progress towards the Promised Land they started hankering for the old ways. They grumbled and complained, especially about their leaders. Numbers 11:1. Change is always threatening, and painful. Often you'll want to go back to the old ways (even though you didn't really like them when you were back there!).
- The real issue was all about whether they would allow the Lord to be their God. Leviticus 26:13, 14 on The choice was clear: trust in God, obey Him and He would bring them into His blessing. Exodus 33:14, 17. Disobey God, reject Him and they would perish in the wilderness.
- God tested them to reveal their hearts. He allowed them to be tempted, and they called it a trial. (But 'test', 'tempt' and 'try' are all the same word!). 2 Chronicles 32:31
- They sent spies into the Promised Land and found it was a land of milk and honey. But there were also giants there. They chose to rebel against the Lord. Numbers 13:27-33

Key issues:

- obedience to God
- trusting in God
- laying aside control of your life
- the Lordship of Christ
- choosing to be God's people



Key Scripture:

You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own. Leviticus 20:26

Symbolically:

Choose to obey God or rebel against God for fear of the giants. If you choose to obey God, cross over and receive the milk and honey.



3. Embracing God's will (Kadesh Barnea to Canaan)

- It was risky to follow the Lord. They had to lay down everything they had put their security in previously. It was God or nothing! In the end it was worth the risk! Deut 1:21
- Along the way they were attacked by enemies, scared by giants, tempted to have alliances with the locals and influenced by the region's 'gods'. But God was on their side and protected them. Deut 1:29-31. Those who trusted the Lord and followed Him entered the Promised Land. The others perished along the way.
- The Promised Land was their inheritance corporately but within it each family had a special allotment. Numbers 26:52. The contribution of each family was vital for the success of the whole group. Everybody had a part to play.
- In the Promised Land the peoples feared them rather than them fearing the people. Deut 2: 25
- After going through the Jordan River there was no way back.
- The land was indeed a good land, flowing with milk and honey. God did amazing things eg. at Jericho and His promise to bless His people was fulfilled. God can be trusted!
- It was important to teach this to their children so that the next generation would also trust the Lord. Deut 11:18-21
- The ongoing blessing on God's people was dependent on their continual obedience to the Lord. Deut 11:13-15

Key issues:

- obedience to God
- trusting in God
- teaching the children
- the Lordship of Christ
- being God's people

Key Scriptures:

Walk in all the way the LORD has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land you will possess. Deuteronomy 5:33

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession.
Deuteronomy 7: 6

Symbolically:

Build an altar of stones; one stone from each family. (Joshua 4).



Let's journey together into all that God has got for us.

We may not know exactly where He is taking us but we know we can trust Him to lead us into a 'land flowing with milk and honey'.

Walk in all the way the LORD has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land you will possess. Deuteronomy 5:33