



GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Talk About It

1. Have you ever lost hope in something, or someone? How does that feel? Can hope be restored?

Read About It: Romans 12:16; Exodus 14:10-14; 16:2-3; Romans 5:1-5; John 15:5

Think About It

2. **Read Exodus 14:10-14.** How equipped were the Egyptians for battle? The Israelites? How did that make the Israelites react? What pressures are piling up for Moses? How does Moses handle the stress?
3. **Read Exodus 16:2-3.** Given the miraculous escape from Egypt, how do you account for the people complaining so soon (about 45 days): Short memory? Physical exhaustion through harsh environments? Finicky eaters? Acting like ill-mannered children?
4. **Read Romans 5:1-5.** Paul describes a process of Christian maturity (v.3-4) that ends in hope that endures. Out of the areas of suffering, perseverance, character and hope, where is God working in your life right now? How does character produce hope?

Do Something About It

5. **Read John 15:5.** What does it mean when he tells his disciples to “remain in me?” How does he “remain” in us? What kind of “fruit” is Jesus talking about here? What can we accomplish without Jesus?

Romans 12:16

¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

Exodus 14:10-14

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord,¹¹ and they said to Moses, “Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt? ¹² Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, ‘Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!’ ¹³ But Moses told the people, “Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. ¹⁴ The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.”

Exodus 16:2-3

² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

Romans 5:1-5

¹ Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. ³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

John 15:5

⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.