

A WAY OUT OF NO WAY

• All In Group Discussion Guide •
Week of Oct 2

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 14:10-14, 21

10 As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” 13 But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.” 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

We encourage you to begin contemplating your 2023 Pledge to First Pres.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introductions:

- Share something about yourself with the group. Where did you grow up? What was one thing you loved about where you grew up?

Scripture Reflection:

- How does this week's passage connect to previous weeks?
- What do we learn about God (traits, personality, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Sermon Reflection:

- Pastor Lara repeats "the hearts of humanity have not changed--still created good, still continually sinful." How does this sit with you?
- Pastor Lara uses the African-American story from as an Exodus parallel in her sermon. Have you thought of this before? What else might we learn from this parallel?
- Where do you currently feel shut in by the wilderness?
- How has God made a way out of no way in your life?

Closing Question & Application:

- Given our discussion, how might God want you to apply your learning in your life or in your community in the next week? Who might you share this with?

Prayer: *(save a little extra time for this)*

- This week, do a "hands down/hands up" prayer. Have people place their hands facing down on their laps. Open with prayer and invite people to speak what they need to let go of and give to God. When it feels like everyone who wants to has spoken, invite people to turn their palms up and invite people to a few moments of silence to receive God's forgiveness, grace, love, and peace. Leave a solid minute or two for silence and then say amen.

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