



## The WILD Love of God

"Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he, quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion." "Safe?" said Mr Beaver. "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you." — **C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**

### God is good, even when life is unpredictable Exodus 1; 5; 6

Exodus 1:8 – *"Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph."*

- God sees us in our trouble  
Exodus 3:7 - *"The Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings."*
- God will deliver  
Exodus 7:4-5 - *"When Pharaoh does not listen to you, then I will lay My hand on Egypt and bring out My hosts, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments. The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst."*

### God is good, even in the plagues, the waves, and in the wilderness

Exodus 14:13-14 – *"But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent."*

- **When life is unfair...God is good!** The Israelites are slaves for the Egyptians - Exodus 1; 5; 6
- **When life is scary...God is good!** God sends plagues on Egypt - Exodus 7:14-12:32
- **When life changes...God is good!** The Israelites enter the wilderness - Exodus 14-17
- **When life is sad...God is good!** Jesus dies and comes back to life - John 16-21
- **When life is good...God is good!** The Israelites build a memorial to remember God's goodness - Joshua 3-4

<p><b>MIDBAR (271 times)</b> Kind of desert you can survive in. Isaiah 35:1,6; 43:19</p>	<p><b>TSIYAH (16 times)</b> Survivable, but hospitality is necessary. Psalm 105:41; Jeremiah 2:5-7</p>	<p><b>YESHIMON (13 times)</b> Wilderness in which no one can survive. Psalm 68:7, 78:40, 106:14</p>
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### We set up memorial stones to remember that God is good Joshua 3-4

Joshua 4:6-7 – *"Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' then you shall say to them, 'Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.' So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever."*

## Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

Sometimes I think it was easier for the Israelites to fear the Lord because they saw so much of his power and might, and because they witnessed death as the consequence for disobedience. But as we read the rest of the Old Testament, we see the people of Israel continually forget their deliverer and suffer from chronic unbelief. They believed the lie that God had abandoned them, so they erected a golden calf in His place (Exodus 32). The Israelites constantly complained (Exodus 16:2-4), believing the lie that bondage in Egypt was better than freedom in the desert. They didn't believe God when he promised that He would give them the Promised Land, so they refused to fight for Canaan (Deuteronomy 1:19-45). Though a few believed the Lord and feared His name, it is clear in Scripture that much of Israel did not fear Him – though they saw everything he had done for them. What were they missing? What did they not believe about God?

The Israelites were intimately acquainted with the concept of God not being safe, but they didn't believe He was good. **The root of their unbelief, and our unbelief, is a lack of trust in God's goodness.** In all the examples listed above, Israel believed their way was better than God's way, that their own sense of goodness was better than God's goodness.

- There is a tipping point in our trust of God. Have you found that you are willing to trust God with certain things, but not everything?
- On a scale of 1-10, from total disbelief to total belief, how much do you trust in God's goodness?
- Of the different daily themes we went over with the kids this week (when life is unfair, scary, changes, sad or good), which one in your life has taught you the goodness of God the most?

## Next Steps:

**BE BAPTIZED:** Baptism is a great celebration event where those who have become followers of Jesus "go public" with their decision. Come learn more about the biblical meaning and method of water baptism at our next Baptism Class on Sunday, August 4 or 11 at 11:00 am in the Worship Center Prayer Room. This will help you prepare to take part in the Beach Baptisms happening on August 11 at Corona Del Mar. Discover more about this important step of faith for all believers to take at [calvarylife.org/baptism](http://calvarylife.org/baptism)

## In Response:

**COMMUNION:** Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The bread represents His body given for us. The cup of juice represents His blood, shed to pay the price for our sins. We typically pass communion the first Sunday of the month. (We will pass it this month on August 11). Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

**GIVING:** The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or [calvarylife.org/give](http://calvarylife.org/give)

**PRAYER POINTS:** These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

**PRAYER ROOM:** The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.