



**Let it Go
Let Go of Certainty**

Need help navigating an online group session? Reach out to MichaelS@wschurch.org with questions and to get tips for how to stay connected even when you can't meet in person!

In uncertain times such as these, it's human to grasp for certainty. But what if we're grasping for the wrong thing? It's time to let go of certainty and trust that God is WITH us.

Scriptures:

When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle.

Exodus 13:17-18 NLT

The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night. And the Lord did not remove the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire from its place in front of the people.

Exodus 13:21-22

The Israelites were puzzled when they saw it. "What is it?" they asked each other. They had no idea what it was.

And Moses told them, "It is the food the Lord has given you to eat. These are the Lord's instructions: Each household should gather as much as it needs. Pick up two quarts for each person in your tent."

So the people of Israel did as they were told. Some gathered a lot, some only a little. But when they measured it out, everyone had just enough. Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough. Each family had just what it needed.

Then Moses told them, "Do not keep any of it until morning." But some of them didn't listen and kept some of it until morning. But by then it was full of maggots and had a terrible smell. Moses was very angry with them.

After this the people gathered the food morning by morning, each family according to its need. And as the sun became hot, the flakes they had not picked up melted and disappeared.

Exodus 16:15-21

Icebreaker and Intro Questions:

1. Have you started any DIY projects at home? OR what show Netflix have you binged?
2. What resonated with you from Sunday's service? (Sermon, scripture, song, etc.)

Discussion Questions:

3. One of the most challenging aspects of this season is all of the uncertainty. Jobs, schools, vacations, and our health are just a few of the things of which we aren't certain. What have you been uncertain about lately?
4. Read Exodus 13:17-18 together as a group. What is your reaction to God leading them to the Promised Land in a "roundabout" way?
5. Read Exodus 13:21-22 together as a group. God's presence with his people in a very visible and way was revolutionary for the Israelites. Can you think of time when you followed God's leading? How can you remember that God is with you always?
6. Have everyone read over Exodus 16:15-21 on their own, slowly. (Or, if it works better for your group, have one person read the passage out loud and let everyone else listen.) Highlight or jot down some verses that resonate with you as you read them. Where do you find yourself in this story? Share as a group about your reflections on this story of God's provision.
7. Talking about the Israelites, Chip shared this: "God aims to completely rewire their **scarcity mindset**, in which FEAR is the fuel and GREED is the operating system—into an **abundance mindset**, in which GRATITUDE is the fuel and GENEROSITY is the operating system." What's your reaction to this?
8. How can we experience Jesus' presence with us? How might that change your perspective this week? Take some time to pray as a group that you'd remember that Jesus is with you – right now.

This week:

- Have you ever memorized a Bible verse? Write down John 16:33 on a card and put it somewhere where you'll see it several times each day. Every time you see it, read these words from Jesus outloud several times.
 - "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33
 - If you'd like to hear more and reflect more on Jesus' words, read John 16:16 – 17:26.

- We've put together several excellent resources for you to use during the *Let It Go* teaching series at West Side. Grow deeper in your faith and relationship with God with free Bible reading plans, video content, and more at wschurch.org/resources.
 - One resource you'll find there is a 5 Day Bible Reading Plan, [*Walking Through Spiritual Valleys*](#). As Christ followers, we all prefer mountaintop experiences in our faith. But, it's usually in the spiritual valleys where we learn and grow, and where our faith expands. Through this 5 Day devotional, you'll gain insight to handle these spiritual bleak times with grace and hope and be encouraged that God is working in them even if you don't feel it.

Notes: