

LWML *Texas* District

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Bible Study

Where Are We Going?

Before getting ready to leave, my five-year-old will frequently ask, “Where are we going?” It is a legitimate question considering time is of little value to him, and he doesn’t have the family schedule down very well. We like to know where we are headed. It’s the reason we have atlases, maps, GPS, or apps on our phones or in our cars. We don’t want to get lost. We want to reach our destination safely, and hopefully with as little traffic as possible. Our goal isn’t the journey as much as it is the destination.

When Moses and the Israelites left Egypt, God told them they were going to the promised land. Then the grumbling began. Nothing was comfortable about their journey. At one point Moses goes up Mount Sinai and doesn’t come down for 40 days! How would you feel if you were sleeping in a tent and your leader disappeared for more than a month?

What happens while Moses is on Mount Sinai in Exodus 32:1–2? What bold statement does Aaron make about their escape from slavery in verse 4?

God then takes back control from what would lead the people astray. The Israelites then wander around in the wilderness for an entire generation before they are given the privilege of entering the promised land. God provides in some miraculous ways while they are wandering. Read Deuteronomy 29:5 and 34:7. What are some of these ways?

Where are places you like to go? What does the drive look like? The commute I have on a daily basis involves a lot of traffic. At one point and time, there were very few cars, and the scenery was very rural and peaceful. It has now become stop and go, hurry up to stop, big warehouse buildings and construction sites, and large semitrucks creeping up the steep incline of the road slowing down all the fellow travelers. I have found by having good music and delicious coffee on the way to work, I don’t care about the traffic so much. I am in my own little contented world, enjoying the ever-changing view, and belting my heart out to the music.

In the following passages, what does God have to say about our path and journeys?

Psalms 23:3 _____

Proverbs 2:7–9 _____

Proverbs 10:17 _____

Proverbs 16:9 _____

Proverbs 19:21 _____

Isaiah 42:16 _____

Matthew 28:18–20 _____

What is the first verb in the great commission in Matthew 28?

Jesus also ends it with a promise. Why would the promise be valuable in our daily journey to live out the great commission?

A Christian's life is not always a smooth easy path. There is suffering, hardship, persecution, and obstacles. What comfort can we have during these challenging times? Read 2 Corinthians 1:5–7.

There are things God has blessed us with to make the journey better. What examples are found in Ephesians 5:15–21?

Moving homes can be exciting and arduous. It's been said, in some respects, it is more difficult to move within the same town than to move away. The daily grind doesn't stop. You still have the same responsibilities you had before, but now you have the task of packing and unpacking while maintaining life at full speed. However, moving towns is a different type of difficulty. Where will you worship, what is the neighborhood actually like, will I make friends, and what about new doctors? God called Abram to move, but did not clearly define where he was going. Read Genesis 12:1–4.

What exactly does God ask Abram to do? Where is God sending him? What will be the outcome of Abram's obedience?

How does God's call of Abram resemble the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18–20? Where is God calling us to go? Read Acts 1:6–8.

A few years ago, there was a major focus by LCMS World Mission to understand the locations in Acts 1:8. Jerusalem refers to people who are geographically close to us as well as culturally like us. Judea is geographically further out but culturally similar. Samaria is geographically close and culturally far. The end of the earth is beyond even our present knowledge and understanding. Where are each of these places for you? Where is your Jerusalem? Where is your Judea? Where is your Samaria?

We all have a circle of influence. We may not be the ones traveling to Samaria or the ends of the earth, but God can use us to encourage, influence, and support those who are.

Looking back on your journey through life this far, where has God taken you? Have you gone down paths of your own choosing? How did God use those experiences to grow your faith or remind you of His power? How has God led you to different moments where only He could have seen how it would work out? When you consider the greatness of God, the journey He has provided, and the humility of man, what do you know about God from your own experience?

God reveals Himself to us through His creation and through His Word as it says in Romans 1:19–20 and John 1:1. How do you think these verses speak to the journey we are on and God's purpose in our journey?

A favorite verse for many is Romans 8:28. Read Romans 8:18–28. What can we learn from these verses about the purpose of God for us?

It isn't always clear where we are going or what we will be doing when we get there. However, we can have faith that God is with us through the journey, and His purpose will prevail. He has made us His own children through Jesus Christ. We are called and redeemed for a purpose. Because of the Gospel, our journey is not in vain. It is full of direction orchestrated by our heavenly Father.

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