

Community Group Discussion Guide

Exodus 7:8–13 — The Staff and the Serpents

Big Question:

When competing voices promise security, power, or control, where does your deepest allegiance truly belong?

- 1. Before God performs a miracle through Moses and Aaron, He asks them to simply obey. They have no control over Pharaoh's response or the outcome.**
Why is it often easier to obey God when we can predict the results? What situation in your life is inviting you to practice obedience without certainty?
 - 2. The sermon describes Pharaoh's throne room as a clash of competing kingdoms and competing claims to authority.**
What "competing voices" most influence the way you think and make decisions today (success, politics, money, approval, security, comfort, etc.)? How can you discern whether those voices are shaping your allegiance more than Christ?
 - 3. The sermon warns against two extremes: dismissing spiritual realities altogether or becoming preoccupied with them.**
What does it look like to live with a healthy awareness of spiritual realities while remaining confident in Christ's complete authority?
 - 4. Pharaoh witnessed God's power firsthand, yet his heart remained hard because surrender—not evidence—was the real issue.**
Are there areas of your life where you already know what God is asking of you, but surrender has been difficult? What makes letting go of control so challenging?
 - 5. The sermon suggests that modern idols rarely look like carved statues. Instead, they often reveal themselves through what we trust, fear losing, or sacrifice everything to keep.**
What tends to compete most for your loyalty? How can you tell when a good gift has quietly become something you rely on more than God?
 - 6. The message ends by pointing to Jesus, whose death and resurrection ultimately defeated every competing power.**
If Jesus truly holds all authority, what practical difference should that make in the way you face fear, temptation, uncertainty, or suffering this week?
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Closing Prayer:

Pray for one another by name, asking God to reveal any rival allegiances that have taken root in your hearts. Thank Him that Christ has overcome every power of sin and death, and ask for the courage to submit fully to Him, resist evil, and follow Jesus with wholehearted trust.