

WARM-UP QUESTION: Describe a time when someone made you feel loved.

READ: Exodus 13:1–14:9

FOCUS: Understanding and encountering God's love prepares us to experience salvation. God's power, provision, protection, plan and presence are all expressions of His love.

OBSERVE

- **God's Power** God expressed His love for the Israelites by freeing them from Egypt with mighty signs, wonders and plagues. Similarly, God demonstrated His love for us when Jesus defeated the power of sin, death and Satan on our behalf.
- **God's Provision** During the tenth plague, God mercifully provided the Israelites with a way to redeem their firstborn. For the escape from Egypt, He gave them unleavened bread that did not spoil. Similarly, God demonstrated His love for us when Jesus died on our behalf. He is the perfect Passover Lamb who satisfied the penalty for sin in our place.
- **God's Protection** God protected the Israelites from the first nine plagues before sparing their firstborn and cattle from the judgment of the tenth plague. Similarly, God expressed His love for us when Jesus took the wrath of God on Himself, keeping us from it and extending forgiveness instead.
- God's Plan God's plans are not last minute. He knows everything that will happen from the beginning. When Joseph asked not to be buried in Egypt, it was a sign that he knew the Israelites would one day leave, according to God's plan. Similarly, even before Adam and Eve sinned, God had a plan to redeem us from sin and death through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.
- God's Presence During the exodus from Egypt, God was present with the Israelites as a pillar of fire by night and cloud by day to give them light, guidance and comfort. Similarly, God expresses His love for us by sending His Holy Spirit to be our light, to guide us and to give us comfort.

REFLECT: How do you typically experience God's love? Which of the expressions of God's love above do you identify with the most? Which of the expressions of God's love above are hardest for you to experience or understand?

TAKE ACTION: Stand strong in the knowledge that you are loved and be a light to those around you. Share God's love with someone this week.

PRAY: Father, thank You for loving us. When we are weak, remind us that You are mighty in power, generous in provision, faithful to protect, wise in all Your planning and holy in presence. Open our eyes to see how You are at work in our lives and reveal more of Your love for us in its various expressions. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.