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O F G R O W T H

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*Give it a Year*  
*Week 10*

# WEEK 10

## Exodus 14:10-12

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As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

## Exodus 16:2

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“The whole community of Israel spoke bitterly against Moses and Aaron.”

## Exodus 16:2

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“That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!”

Moses is leading millions of people in the wilderness so surely there are going to be some people that are at odds with him and his leadership and his guidance. Conflict and criticism seem to be a running theme that comes up as they are wandering for the entire 40 years. Why? Because the unknown can be scary. Change can be scary, even if it is good change. Not everyone will understand what God has called you to do and who He has called you to be. They aren't supposed to understand your calling and your relationship with God.

The Israelites were longing to go back into slavery instead of trusting God with the unknown of the wilderness. Back to slavery! This thought can seem so wild to us but really it isn't far off from what we do, too. We talk about the "good ole days" when really there wasn't a whole lot of good about them. We talk about going back to that job that was no good or that relationship that was terrible. We do this because the fear of the unknown and lack of control of our lives will paralyze us from moving forward to all that God has for us.

All throughout the bible, people opposed the message of God and the messengers of God. Even Jesus experienced conflict wherever He traveled and even amongst His own followers. Our lives won't be any different. Not everyone is going to like our message, and values, and the light of Jesus on our lives and that will cause chaos and conflict.

When we experience conflict in our homes, with family, neighbors, people that we work with, people in our community, even in our church...it can be all consuming. Conflict is designed to distract us from the real work that God is calling us to do and fulfill. It is designed to stop us and keep us stuck and stunt our growth. The Christian life is surrounded by distractions where the enemy wants you to take our eyes off of God and off of loving Him and loving others.

So instead of being rash and turning to your feeling and giving into sin, remember that this comes with the calling and learn to anticipate it. When you feel frustrated with the people around you, turn to God and keep your eyes focused on Him.

READ: Exodus 16 & 17:1-7

REFLECT:

- What is your 1st reaction to conflict?
- How do you respond to unknown situations?
- Is there a way that you could respond differently, if you 1st went to Jesus when these feelings or situations arose?
- Think of how you would ideally like to respond to conflict or the unknown. How can you achieve that with scripture, godly accountability, and the Holy Spirit?

PRAYER:

Father God, we thank You for giving us all feelings. We thank You for giving us the example of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to learn how we are to respond to all feelings and situations. Lord, give us the mind to always turn to You 1st when conflict or fear of the unknown arises. We thank You for giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fruits of The Spirit. Allow us to tap into utilizing those fruits in uncomfortable situations. Keep us strong in our faith and recognize that You always go before us. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.