



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **The Splitting of the Sea and Our Baptism**

Speaker: **Jason Gaboury – Preacher, Author, InterVarsity National Director**

Scriptures: **Exodus 14:19-28**

**19** Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, **20** coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

**21** Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, **22** and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

**23** The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. **24** During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. **25** He jammed[a] the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

**26** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." **27** Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward[b] it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. **28** The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

### **Sermon Summary:**

We all know the story of Moses parting the Red Sea—but what if it's about more than escaping captivity? This Sunday, as we continue our Sunday School series, we'll see that God doesn't only free us from what holds us back; He leads us into something brand new. At the waters, He offers more than deliverance – God offers us a new creation!

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. Reread the passage and share what new thing you noticed or learned from Pastor's retelling of this epic biblical story.
2. Describe a time in your life when you felt trapped or stuck and needed a way out. What emotions and discouragement did you experience during that time or currently?

Remember, God made a way through the sea, he can make a way for you and me.

3. Pastor Jason described how ancient readers saw in this Exodus story God creating a whole new world in the midst of the sea. Jewish scholars asked, "Are there fruit trees at the bottom of the sea?" Why? Because what would come next in the creation narrative infused in the Exodus story? Vegetation and trees that bear fruit. God didn't just deliver Israel from Pharaoh and the Egyptian army, he created a whole new reality for his people could flourish. What if God wants to

do more than just get you out of your current situation? What if he wants to remake you even in the midst of the difficulty and bring you into flourishing?

What is a situation you need God's deliverance in? Are you open to him remaking you through it? Share your situation and the challenges you have with trusting God in the midst of the trial.

Often, our desire is for God to simply get rid of the problem. But God is reshaping and meeting us through it. God wants to change you and your situation

4. This week, let's practice new creation together. Instead of asking God to only change your problem, also ask him to change you. Think of someone who is difficult to love, hold their face in your mind and pray the shema over them:

*"Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God. The Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Ask God to remake your heart for them.