

RULE #6

When unsure, just take the next logical step by faith.

Goal:

To lead participants to take a constructive action step prompted by faith in God's leading, not fear of God's absence...

Introduction:

As the group assembles check in with the participants regarding their progress especially inquiring about their fear and panic levels. A major emphasis in the first half of the journey is to calm the nerves by focusing on the sovereignty of God.

As you transition into Rule 6, ask an ice breaker question such as:

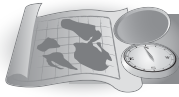
What does the cliché "paralysis of analysis" mean? How can it influence our Red Sea journey?

At this point you want to review the first five Red Sea Rules noting the focus of staying calm and seeing the sovereignty of God. If we're not careful we may think that means we never "do" anything along the way. Point out the Rule 6, the next step, calls on some action from us. Then ask:

In your journey thus far, have you sensed God wants you to take some action step? If so, how have you responded to that nudging?

Allow some time for answers then move into the study with a statement like:

*As we discover in Rule 6, **When unsure, just take the next logical step by faith.** We may very well be called on to **do** something. So let's discuss when it's appropriate to act.*



PREVIEW THE JOURNEY

Have people turn to Exodus 14. Once again retell the Red Sea story.

Rule 6 is based on Exodus 14:15.

According to Exodus 14:15, what did God tell Moses to instruct the Israelites to do?

Point out that the same Hebrew word translated *go forward* is also translated throughout the Old Testament as *journeyed, moved, set out, left, and departed*. Emphasize that God was telling the Israelites to act, move, and do something.

Previously God told them to be *silent* (Exodus 14:14). Now He commanded them to *go forward* (Exodus 14:15).

Ask the group if there is a contradiction here.

Here's how these seemingly contradictory commands relate. When the people first encountered the Red Sea and the approaching armies they understandably experienced fear and panic out of which they recklessly reacted. God wanted them to calm down and not foolishly react out of fear. Having calmed down He wanted them to hear His voice and respond out of faith. It's OK to act when God says to, but it's not OK to react to fear just because we "need" to control or fix the situation.



PREPARE FOR THE JOURNEY

As the study guide points out: *We must avoid two extremes as we journey through our Red Sea: reacting impulsively out of fear and refusing to move even if God shows the way.*

The Scripture teaches God is personally active in our lives revealing His plan for us. The study guide lists verses that show how God might communicate His will for us:

- Luke 4:4, 8, 12 indicate the Scriptures contain His will.
- Acts 16:6-7 shows the Holy Spirit directs our lives.
- Proverbs 15:22 teaches friends and advisors can be helpful.
- Acts 18:1-3, 6-8 demonstrate that open and closed doors can reveal God's plan.

Time permitting read and discuss these examples. Ask the group members:

Have you recently seen the examples in these verses present in your life? What have you sensed God saying to you?

Remind your group that God isn't playing hide and seek with His will. He wants us to know Him and His plan for us. Then explain and ask:

According to verses like Luke 11:3 and 2 Corinthians 4:16 God appears to direct us day by day. Why do think God gives us daily doses rather than all of His will for our lives at once?

Explain that God desires and we need constant, daily fellowship with Him. If we knew His entire plan at once we may take it and run. It's in that daily dependent relationship with Him that we discern His will and receive His power for living.

Ask the group:

How is your DAILY relationship with God going?



PROCEED ON THE JOURNEY

As you wrap up the discussion you want to again drive home the point that God may very well want us to do something right now in our journey. If so, we need to obey.

Again as I asked earlier, do you sense God wanting you to DO something right now in your journey? If so what is it? More importantly are you obeying? If not, what's stopping you from obeying?



PONDER THE JOURNEY

Each session, remind the members to journal in their study guide. A daily journal is a good encouragement to maintaining daily fellowship with God. If they're "dry" for a day or two, encourage them to record that in the journal. The journal is to be an accurate account of our pilgrimage. If "nothing" is happening, we still need to account for these "silent" periods.