

# LIFE LESSONS – Making It Live

David Welch | “Clouds, Fire & the Sea” | Exodus 13 & 14 | July 23-24, 2011

## Intent

**Did you complete everything that you intended to do today?** Do you have a “bucket list” of things that you want to do before you die? At the age of 80, Moses thought that he would spend his few remaining days tending sheep; that he had done all the things that he was supposed to do. But God had a different mission in mind that lasted for 40 more years. **Discuss** how you might sometimes get the feeling that God intends for you to significantly change the purpose and activity of your daily life. How can you know?

## Clear Vision

**What do you follow in order to be sure that you are following God’s will? Instinct? Feelings? Open doors?** Do you follow a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night” as the Israelites of the Exodus did? Of course not! Have you ever seen a cloud or a pillar of fire leading someone around? **Discuss:** God’s Word tells us very clearly that you can have a clear vision of His will for your life if you do three things: Study the Bible regularly; pray very specifically without ceasing and seek the counsel of wise and Godly individuals.

## Obstacles

**Share some seemingly immovable obstacles in your life.** Did Moses encounter obstacles as he moved to obey God? Even before the Exodus really got started, Moses ran up against Pharaoh, his army, the Egyptian desert, the Red Sea; not to mention 2 million Hebrews that really did not want to leave Egypt for a complete unknown. We all have encountered obstacles. But looking back, **discuss** whether these obstacles were REALLY immovable or if God used them to demonstrate His power to you. Can you share how God was working out His plan for you through obstacles?

## Victory or Defeat?

**What are your strongest memories from childhood?** Good times or bad? Loneliness or fellowship with friends & family? Hunger or Thanksgiving dinners? In the desert, the Israelites forgot the slavery, the long hours of toil in the heat, the lack of hope for a better life for themselves and their children, etc. They even complained that the manna provided by God was the same old thing every day. Looking back to the days in Egypt when they had a varied diet, they conveniently forgot that the food was probably sparse and just remembered that it was varied. Does looking back on “the good old days” tell God *that* you are unhappy with where he has you now and that you are concerned that He may have you headed toward future defeats instead of victories? *Pause to give him thanks for where you have been, where you are and where He will lead you in the future.*

## Maturity

**What do you think defines maturity?** Age? Wisdom? Education? The ability to listen a lot and speak little? Grace under pressure? Apparently the Israelites of the Exodus were not very mature by any definition. They whined, they disobeyed, they rebelled, they mistrusted the leaders that God had chosen to guide them. **Discuss** how you think of yourself as a mature person. As a mature Christian. What do you think constitutes a mature Christian? **Discuss:** Maturity increases as dependence upon God increases. Self-reliance may be an admired American quality, but God-reliance is the hallmark of a mature Christian.

*Written by Ed Hooper*