

Journeying with Jesus

Acts 7v39 – “in their hearts they turned back to Egypt”

<p>1. What are the <u>bumps & distractions</u> that <i>Israel</i> faced on the journey with <i>God</i>?</p>	<p>2. What are the <u>bumps & distractions</u> that <i>we</i> might face when journeying with <i>Jesus</i>?</p>
<p>3. What was the <u>warning</u> we get from what <i>Israel</i> did?</p>	<p>4. What was the <u>direction</u> we need to avoid what <i>Israel</i> did?</p>

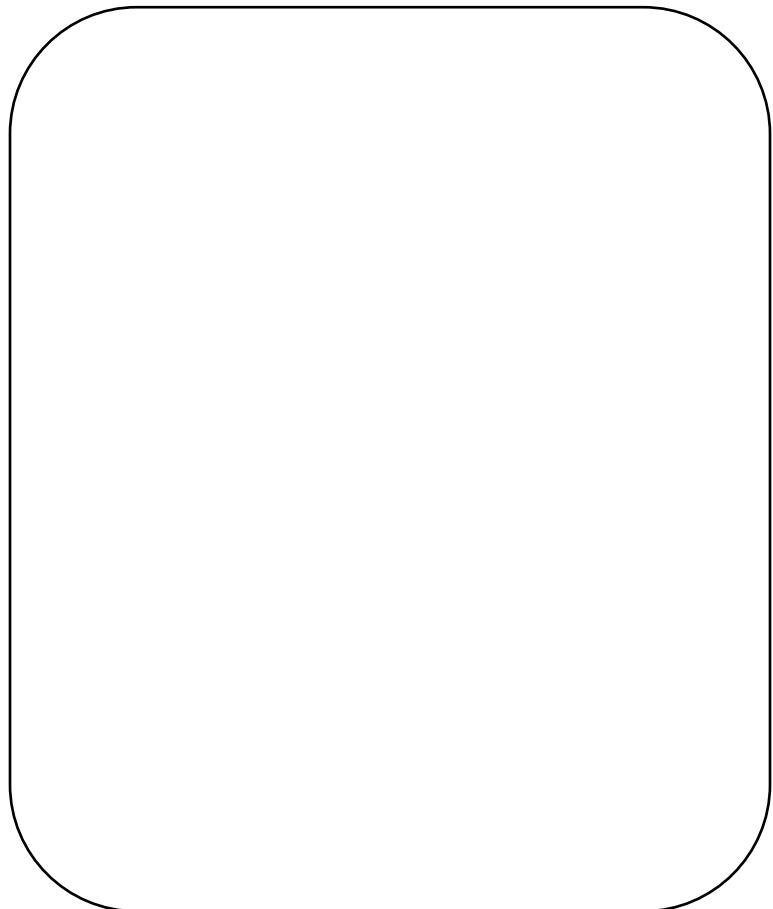
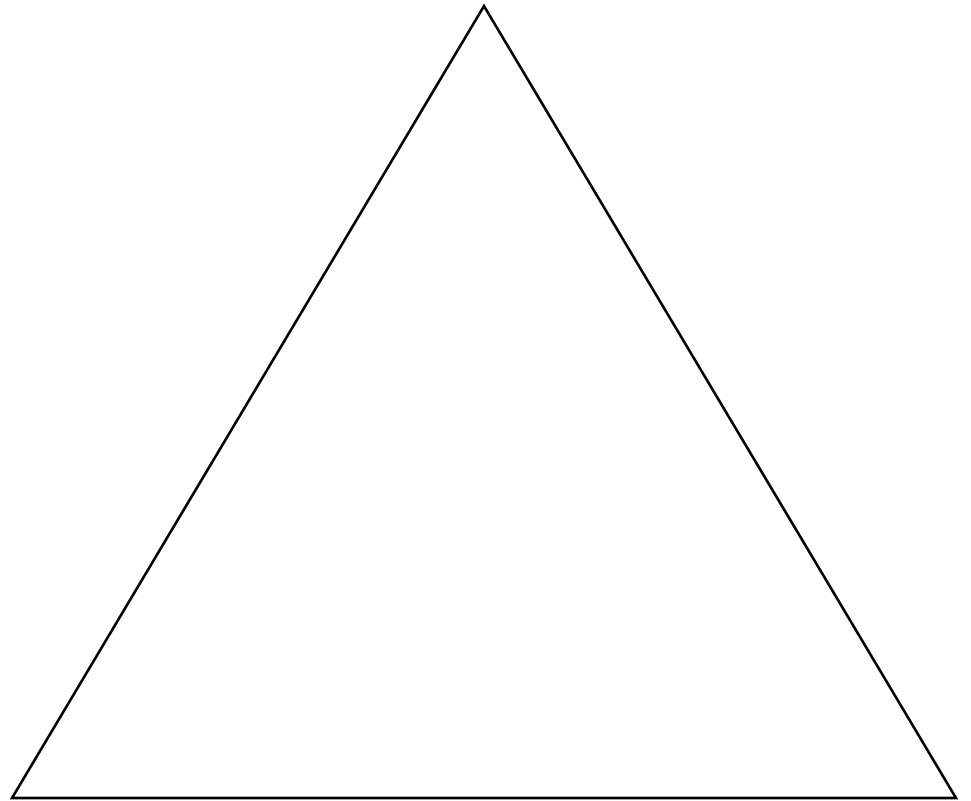
Suggestions for prayer:

Sorry – for forgetting how bad slavery to sin is & how good life with Jesus is.

Thank You – for how much better life with Jesus is *now*, and *forever one day*.

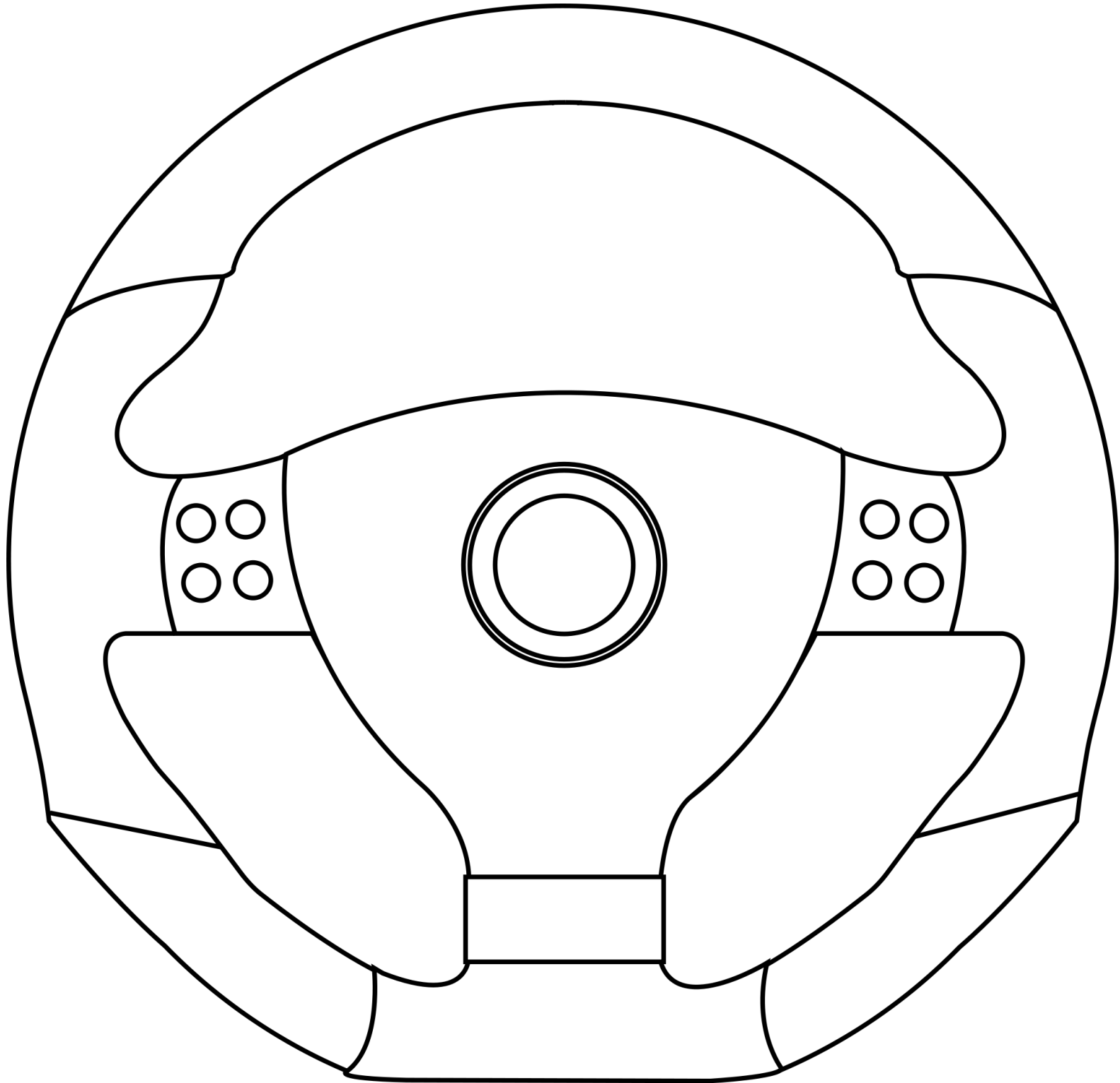
Please – help us not to turn back but to keep journeying with Jesus.

Complete these road signs for your journey with Jesus



Make your own steering wheel

Colour these pictures, cut them out, stick them on either side of some cardboard (e.g. old cereal box) to make a wheel!



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In their hearts they
turned back to
Egypt

Acts 7:39

Notes to help the grown-ups

Here are some notes to go with the first page of the activities. The aim of the questions is to see if the children have followed what was said if they understand what they mean. Please do encourage them to have a Bible open in front of them as they try to answer the questions. Don't worry if the children only manage to answer some of the questions. They are designed to help prompt further conversations about things they've heard today.

1. What are the bumps & distractions that Israel faced on the journey with God?

This question is designed to remember that any journey with God will have **bumps** (things that we find difficult) and **distractions** (things that we miss out on or wish we could have; things that seem more appealing than following Jesus). The examples I gave in the talk are below:

- Exodus 16:1-3 - ²In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat round **pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted**, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.'
- Exodus 17:1-3 - "... the people were **thirsty for water there**, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?'"
- Numbers 11:4-10 ⁴The rabble with them began to **crave other food**, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, 'If only we had **meat** to eat! ⁵We remember **the fish** we ate in Egypt at no cost – also the **cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic**. ⁶But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!'
- Numbers 14:1-4 - ²All 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! ³Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let **us fall by the sword**? Our wives and children will be **taken as plunder**. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?' ⁴And they said to each other, 'We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.'

2. What are the bumps & distractions that we might face when journeying with Jesus?

There are all sorts of things you could discuss here: **bumps** (things that we find difficult) and **distractions** (things that we miss out on or wish we could have; things that seem more appealing than following Jesus). Some of the things mentioned in the talk include: people being mean to us for being Christians; situations in life like sickness and death making life hard; worrying about something in our lives; not doing somethings our friends *do* (because Jesus says we shouldn't) or doing somethings our friends *don't* (because Jesus says we should) etc.

- Consider the different challenges at different stages of life for people following Jesus.
- N.B. don't be afraid to be honest about some of the things *you* as a parent have found hard about following Jesus.

3. What was the warning we get from what Israel did?

The warning was "don't forget how bad you had it before." Israel forgot how bad life in slavery was. Sometimes we forget how bad life without Jesus was – and wonder if *we're* missing out. But when we understand that slavery to sin, death, brokenness & burden is so miserable, we'll never want to turn back!!

4. What was the direction we need to avoid what Israel did?

The direction was “don’t forget how good you have it now.” The more we understand how good Jesus is, the more we’ll stick with him and keep journeying with Jesus.

- Help the children remember to look BACK (to see how God has already been SO good), FORWARD (to get excited about a wonderful new world he’ll make) and UP (to see how strong God is and how much he cares for us right now).