



Series: Junk in the Trunk
“Self-Inflicted Detours”
Week of July 25, 2021

Connect Group Discussion Guide

1. Have you ever had to take a detour when you were traveling? If so, what feelings did you have when you had to detour?
2. As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they often wanted to go back to Egypt, they blamed God and Moses for their circumstance, and they were frustrated. When you had to take a detour, what kinds of things came to your mind?
3. The detours on those roads in your travels were placed there by someone else, in the story of the Israelites, their detour was self-inflicted. We might be able to see ourselves in how they ended up on detour from God’s plans in their lives. Read the Deuteronomy verses:
 - They became distant from God’s direction in their lives, so they wandered (vs. 20-23). Moses already knew and proclaimed what God wanted them to do, but he began to listen to other voices that drew him away from God’s directions. Have you known anyone who may have listened to voices other than what they believed God was telling them?
 - Delayed obedience is disobedience (v.26). Instead of moving into action at what God had instructed, they formed a research committee to spy out the land promised. What are some reasons people may want to “check first” before acting on what they know God is leading them to do?
 - The obstacles became bigger than God (v. 28). When we are not connected to God, challenges can seem bigger than Him. Do you think there is truth to this? How so?
4. The Israelites, perhaps like us, often inflict their own detours based on distance, distractions and delay. But there are some biblical principles we can adopt and live into that can keep us off of self-inflicted detours:
 - Draw and stay near to God (Read James 4:8, Proverbs 15:22). What does this mean to you?
 - Focus on Jesus (Read Hebrews 12:1-3). How does this encourage you?
 - Embrace the “Principle of Today” (Read Exodus 34:11, Deuteronomy 30:19). Do not delay, obey today. What does this mean to you?

Main Idea

In the story of the Israelites, their detour was self-inflicted.

We might be able to see ourselves in how they ended up on detour from God’s plans in their lives and how we can correct our course.

Key Scripture Reference(s)

Read aloud:
Deuteronomy 1:19-28
James 4:8
Proverbs 15:22
Hebrews 12:1-3
Exodus 34:11
Deuteronomy 30:19

Your Faith in Action

What steps will you take this week to **show** others what you believe (in words, and in deeds)?

Mon: _____

Tue: _____

Wed: _____

Thu: _____

Fri: _____

Sat: _____

Sun: _____

This is a constant element, so you can practically live out your faith everyday.