

**Story: Past/Faith**  
Exodus 13.14  
August 30, 2015

## **Introduction**

- Hello and turn to Exodus 13.14.
- The Gospel of Mark begins September 20.
- Today we begin Story (Faith, Life, Purpose).

## **Exodus 13.14 (SLIDE 2)**

*14 “And in the future, your children will ask you, ‘What does all this mean?’ Then you will tell them, ‘With the power of his mighty hand, the Lord brought us out of Egypt, the place of our slavery.’”*

## **Pray**

## **Concerning Backstory / History**

- Evolution of Knight / personal history. **(SLIDE 3)**
- Personal history becomes familial or communal history.
- Understanding the backstory of Christianity is fundamental to understanding anything about our faith at all. **(SLIDE 4)**

## **Biblical Backstory / History (SLIDE 5)**

- Exodus 13.14 – Moses instructs the people to remember with a festival and feast.
- Judges – a lesson in forgetfulness.
- Psalms – the art of recollection.
- New Testament traditions of remembrance: baptism and communion.
- We remember today by reading, meditating, praying, gathering.
- One could say that most of Christian growth comes through the simple discipline of remembering.  
Remembering who God is and who we are.

## **Intent (SLIDE 6)**

- And this is what we're doing today. We're going to remember what God has done amongst us, convinced that looking back at where we've come from informs and inspires how we look ahead to where we're going.

## **Personal LWC History**

- I've been a part of this church for about 11 years now. I first join this church when I was just 19.

- To be a part of such a compassionate and growing church has been a fantastic journey and joy – many of you would concur.
- But the church we're part of today has a much longer backstory than just the past decade.

### **LWC Backstory / History (SLIDE 7)**

- Founded in 1940 as “Emmanuel Pentecostal Tabernacle” and was lead by Phil and Jennie Gaglardi.
- The initial church was small and gathered in homes, and held a VBS in the Fort Langley Community Center.
  - *Think about this* - This makes the LWC tradition of Life Groups and Arts Camp 75 years old.
  - So, there was a church in Fort Langley / Willoughby before we owned a building.
- The original church building was completed in 1945. The timber used was felled on the property here in Fort Langley.
- About 15 or so pastors served the church over the years, and the church never grew more than about forty-fifty strong.
- It was renamed Living Waters Assembly in 1988, and has since been renamed Living Waters Church more recently.

## **A Turning Point**

- The church had some dark times, however.
- Enter Ken and Eunice Gaglardi in 1998. **(SLIDE 8)**
- Interview with the Gaglardis
  - The church was going to close, how did you know you were supposed to come serve the church? How did that come about?
  - How did you get the vision for building this place?
  - What were some of the challenges?
  - Can you share a story about how God provided as the building occurred?
  - Is there something you'd like to say to our church today?
- Ken and Eunice are still out there planting new churches, helping where they can today.
- Thanks to Ken and Eunice.

## **Recent History**

- Ken and Eunice feel it's time to step away. **(SLIDE 9)**
- Leanne McAlister as interim pastor.
- Doug and Linda Smith hear God's call to come lead.
- A team begins to form.

- We see networks and ministries in the church get planted and the church begins to grow numerically.
- We plant a church in Burnaby called CityLights.
- We support global workers and projects around the world, built three water wells, gather in over forty Life Groups, our children's ministry is bursting at the seams, the Youth Network is thriving, we're serving in the local shelter, we try to be as generous as we possibly can, and today we number about a thousand people.
  - And most recently, as of this morning we have launched / are launching a new campus at Yorkson Creek Middle School in Willoughby.
- This has been a good season. Doug is going to share more about who we are today more next week.
- The point is - 75 years is a long time. But I think we're just getting started.

## Pioneer

- When I consider all this history, a few words come to mind: Faith, bravery, vision, imagination, pioneer.
- Looking back into this history reminds me of the pioneers that also pepper our Canadian history. Especially in the West – both the First Peoples who pioneered, or later Europeans.
  - FORT LANGLEY Many of us here are settlers, carving out life in new lands pioneered for us by others. And settling is a good thing. In settling we make home, we put down roots, we grow, we built.
    - But as we settle into abundant life together – are we not still tempted, even made, purposed to pioneer?
  - WILLOUGHYBY. And here we are part of the great Living Waters heritage of pioneering into the unknown.

I'd like to read something Ken wrote when he and Eunice served as pastors here. **(SLIDE 10)**

“Two pictures were given to the church that carry the meaning of the building experience. The first shows two sailing ships, each fully rigged and seaworthy, but one is anchored in the shallows and the other hasn’t experienced the sea in such a long time that it was beached with rocks around it. The other picture shows a similar sailing vessel but this one is keeled over as it races in the wind. The waves are high, and wind is filling its sails and they have jettisoned everything they don’t need for the trip. There is no land in sight, so their faith is in the pilot who knows what is ahead. This ship captured the awesome opportunity to experience life at its full with God as the Pilot. We experienced life as it was meant to be as we built and saw the awesome hand of God. By his grace, we intend to continue to be like that ship.” (Ken Gaglardi)

**(SLIDE 11)**

- **Exodus 13.14** *“And in the future, your children will ask you, ‘What does all this mean?’ Then you will tell them, ‘With the power of his mighty hand, the Lord brought us out of Egypt, the place of our slavery.”*
  - What is interesting about God’s instruction to Moses to remember, and Moses’ words, is that we find this passage immediately following the Exodus from Egypt, but before the parting of the Red Sea. The imperative to “remember” is sandwiched between what God has done, and what God will do. There is more faith ahead.

**(SLIDE 12)**

- Are we not still tempted, having now looked back, to wonder and have faith for our future? Are we not still challenged and inspired to stair into what isn’t and see/imagine what could be?

**Pray**