

EXODUS

Week 3 Study Guide

Exodus

Week 3: Day 1

Read: Exodus 12-13

In **Exodus 12-13**, we find the Passover coming as the Lord brought the 10th plague on Pharaoh and Egypt. As we review the 10th and final plague, it was about midnight when every firstborn son and firstborn of the cattle in Egypt died. We find in **Exodus 12:31** that Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to get their people and leave Egypt as a result of this plague. This began the consummation of delivering Israel from the slavery and bondage of the Egyptians.

The Bible tells us that from that point on, the Jews were to celebrate Passover every year, to commemorate the very day that God brought the Israelites out of Egypt. Passover literally means *“I will pass over you and no plague shall fall upon you and destroy you.”*

The Israelites were instructed to slaughter an unblemished lamb or goat and place the blood on the door posts of their homes, serving as a sign for the death angel to *“Passover”* their homes and spare them from the destructive plague. They were to roast the meat over fire, eating it all, and leaving no meat behind.

While the Passover was a hugely significant historical event for the Jews, it also has very profound meaning for Christians today. Let's unpack the Passover through the lenses of the Gospel and Jesus.

We need to start by reading **Exodus 2:23-25**.

- The people were crying out to God in the midst of their harsh bondage, and God heard them. What do slavery and bondage represent for us as Christians today? What does God do when you cry out?
- What did the Israelites need to do in order for God to move on their behalf? God heard and responded to their cries and asked them to follow Him as He delivers them from a land of slavery and bondage. God dismantled the gods and beliefs of the Egyptians, while He protected and prepared the Israelites to leave Egypt.

- Read **Exodus 12**. Think about what God's part was, and what was the Israelites' part.

Ultimately what is the reason God saved the Israelites at Passover?

- What is the basis for our salvation as Christians? Read **Ephesians 2:8**.
- How does the Passover event connect us to Jesus and the cross?

Exodus

Week 3: Day 2

As we continue reading in Exodus about the Passover, let's step back a few chapters and read **Exodus 6:6-9**.

We find the Lord instructing Moses to tell the Israelites that He, the Lord, will do the following:

1. *"I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians."*
2. *"I will free you from being slaves to them."*
3. *"I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment."*
4. *"I will take you as my own people."*

As we see God acting on the basis of His covenant to deliver and release the Israelites, how do you relate to these four promises?

God wants to work in our lives today, so a watching world can see who He is and be challenged to trust in Him too.

Think about:

- How does slavery apply to your own life? What yokes have you been under in your past?
- Where has God released you?
- Trying sharing with someone how you have been redeemed and by whom? What are we ultimately promised?

These questions may seem easy but the important thing to recognize is: **God fulfills His promises**. That means that God keeps the promises He has made to us as Christians!

In **verse 9** the Israelites didn't listen because of their discouragement and bondage, and yet God proved Himself faithful to His promises. Sometimes our circumstances don't seem to fit how we think God should fulfill His promises. But that doesn't mean that He is not fulfilling what He has said He will do. It does mean that we don't always understand how God goes about keeping His promises, but we know that He will. God's promises to the Israelites in **verses 6-7** are fulfilled in the Passover story of **Exodus 12**.

What encourages you to trust God's promises in the midst of discouragement or difficult circumstances?

Exodus

Week 3: Day 3

Exodus 12:12-13 reads “*On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every first born - both men and animals - and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord.’ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.*”

What does “*first born*” mean to you personally? If you have a child, a first born, what are some special things you see about that child? What specific abilities do you see the child having? (*a great student or athlete, super creative, etc.*)

In the ancient Middle Eastern culture many first born received a double inheritance, family leadership, and a special place at the table - basically great privilege and authority. For Pharaoh, his oldest son was the heir to his throne and was also seen as a “god” in their culture. The “*first born*” was important to God because Israel was His chosen people and Pharaoh was mistreating them.

God went to great lengths to redeem His people by giving them the choice to place blood on their door posts and be passed over. This choice impacted every first born in the land. God’s redemptive heart is seen clearly in Jesus becoming our Passover lamb. God’s first born was sacrificed for our life and freedom. We too have been given the choice to accept His blood for the forgiveness of our sins and our ultimate salvation! Have you chosen to trust in Jesus?

If you have, take some time to thank God for His forgiveness and for His sacrifice in Jesus becoming our Passover Lamb.

If you haven’t, talk to a friend or a small group leader, elder, or a pastor at Centralia Christian Church about what steps to take next in trusting Jesus.

Exodus

Week 3: Day 4

“What is this?” Read: Exodus 16

As we read **chapters 15-18** it becomes clear that the wilderness continues to be a profoundly troubling place for Israel. The wilderness came to be a metaphor for a zone of life not properly ordered and without the usual, reliable life-support systems – it’s that place where fear and anxiety, and the immediacy of perceived needs, caused grumbling, complaining, and selective amnesia, all working together to overshadow the memory of the signs and wonders of the recent past. It’s that place where you can hold a miracle in your hand and not even recognize what it is.

As I read and re-read **chapters 15-17**, I find myself actually talking to the Israelites; *“Are you kidding me, really? You’re going to complain and grumble? The plagues. The Passover. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. The parting of the Red Sea. The destruction of Pharaoh’s army. And you’re whining about a little thing like food and water?”*

Egypt was a place of deep abuse and heavy-handed oppression. *“Yes, but at least we had food and water.”* Egypt was a place of bondage, slavery, and captivity. *“Yes, but at least we had food and water.”* Egypt was a place of uncertainty and devoid of hope. *“Yes, but at least we had food and water.”* How quickly we forget what God has done for us. And when I say *we*, I mean *me*.

“...and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat...’” (Exodus 16:13-15)

It struck me as I’ve been reading through Exodus, especially this week in **chapters 15-18**, that I’m more like the Israelites than I realize, or maybe want to admit. How often do I struggle with the tug-of-war between my sinful nature and the new creation that Christ is making in me? How often do I forget the miracles and wonders that lead to my own redemption and salvation, and forget that I was bought back at a cost - a great cost? How often do I hold something in my hand and fail to recognize it for what it really is? David captured it well in **Psalms**

24:1, “*The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...*” It all belongs to God.

I wonder what would happen if the next time one of my children looked up at me with confusion on their face and a fork-full of food lifted in the air asking, “*What is this?*” I answered, “*It is the broccoli casserole the Lord has given you to eat!*” I wonder what would happen if I used a label maker to label everything in my house something like, “*This is the table the Lord has given you.*” “*This is the computer the Lord has given you.*” “*This is the shirt the Lord has given you.*” I wonder what would happen if I really began to embrace the radical truth that “*The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...*” I wonder...

Point to ponder: How often do you hold something in your hand – maybe even grumble or complain about it – and not even recognize it for what it is? (**God’s provision in your life!**) What would happen if, for one day, you could walk around with a special pair of glasses on – allowing you to see things for what they really are – see people for who they really are? I wonder how that would change our attitudes and perspectives. I wonder how the changes in our attitudes and perspectives would change our behaviors, our love of God, and our love of our neighbors.

Prayer: *God of manna and mercy I pray that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened, that I may know the fullness of the hope to which You’ve called me, that I may see the riches of what Your great faithfulness provides me daily, and that I may understand Your incomparably great power and love for all who believe. Amen.*

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