

# GROWTH + GROUPS

## NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 04.28.2024

BEHOLD THE LAMB - EXODUS 12:1-14

### PART 1: Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us "The first thing Passover is about is divine judgement. God wanted to bring judgement on Pharaoh and all the false gods of Egypt. He says as much in verse 12. The Egyptians were a pagan society that worshipped a myriad of different deities and idols, including the sun, moon, frogs, flies, and the Nile River, among other things. In fact, when you look closely at the ten plagues God brought against Egypt, you'll find that each one was a different god the people worshipped. With every plague God sent He was systematically dismantling their belief system and judging their false idols one by one. At the same time, God was judging Pharaoh for continually hardening his heart against Him. It's interesting to note that after each of the first five plagues, Pharaoh hardened his own heart, but after the last five, the Bible says that 'God hardened Pharaoh's heart..' Let's get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Daniel's sermon?
2. What have you heard or been taught about the Passover? What comes to mind when you hear the word "Passover"?

One of the most powerful stories from the Old Testament referred to in the New Testament is that of the Passover. It is both beautiful and horrible—horrible in that it pictures the judgment that falls upon those who oppose the Lord, yet beautiful in the way that it describes the rescue of God's people from judgment. God used this historical moment to continually warn people of their sin, while calling them to repentance and reminding them of the salvation offered through His Son, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (cf. John 1:29).

### PART 2: Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 12:1-6.

This passage describes when Passover was established, when God rescued His people from Egyptian slavery. After the other plagues did not move the pharaoh to let the Israelites go, the Lord sent one final plague that provoked the king of Egypt to relent temporarily and free God's people. This plague, the death of all of Egypt's firstborn sons, gave the Israelites a short time to escape, so the meal before it had to be something that could be eaten quickly.

1. What's the significance of the Lord's giving the Israelites these calendar instructions concerning the Passover?
2. Describe the animals that were to be used for the Passover. What comparisons do you see between the descriptions of these animals and Christ in the New Testament?
3. Why do you think the Lord makes this a community event, not just an individual one? How might this inform our view of the Lord's Supper in the New Testament?

The Passover was such a significant event in the life of God's people that their calendar would be re-ordered to reflect its importance. The animals used were to be unblemished and would symbolize the perfect Son of God who alone could take away the sin of the world. As in the later imposed sacrificial system, the

unblemished animal would remind people of their own flaws before a holy God and the need for a pure substitute. While there was an aspect of this Passover sacrifice that was oriented to the individual and the family, it's important to note that it was also something God's people did together at the same time. This serves as a reminder that while God saves us individually, He purchased His Bride, the Church, with His blood; kingdom life is to be enjoyed in community.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 12:7-14.

1. How does the spreading of the lamb's blood compare with the application of the blood of Jesus in the New Testament?
2. What role does judgment play in the way we see this salvific event?
3. How do the Lord's instructions to dress for a long journey inform our view of the Christian life?

While the shedding of Jesus' blood was certainly sufficient for all mankind, it is efficient for those who appropriate salvation by faith. To be spared of God's wrath, the blood must be applied. When we speak of salvation, it's important to consider what we are saved from. The death of the firstborn is an apt picture of the death and eternal separation from God that occurs if someone is not covered by Jesus' sacrifice. Just as the Israelites would embark on a long journey after being saved, a journey that would lead to their sanctification as a people, so it is with the Christian life.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5:7.

1. How would you describe the importance of the bread being unleavened? What does that represent in the life of the Christian?
2. Using what you've learned about the Old Testament Passover, describe each of the elements in terms of Christ's being sacrificed on our behalf.

Leaven had come to symbolize the infectious power of sin in biblical terms. As such, we should be aware of the contaminating influence of sin on our communities of faith. We should "clean out the old yeast" in order to live in the realization of who we really are, "a new batch...unleavened." Christ's sacrifice has made God's people a sanctified people. On this basis, we are to rid ourselves of all corrupting influences.

**PART 3: Applying God's Word**

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Like the Israelites, we must learn how to shed our identity as slaves and walk in new freedom. This is a process that takes time. As one commentator observed, 'It may have only taken one night for God to get the Hebrews out of Egypt, but it took Him forty years to get Egypt out of them.' It often works the same way for us. The only way any of this is possible is through the shed blood of Jesus. I love the way that old hymn puts it, 'What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh, precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow, no other fount I know. Nothing but the blood of Jesus.'

1. How might we be intentional in creating traditions that help us and our children understand the things of the Lord?
2. How can we guard against any "leaven" being accepted and affecting our church or small group?
3. How can you use what you've learned today to share Christ with someone in your community?

**PRAYER:** Spend some time thanking God for the wonderful gift of Christ our Passover Lamb. Pray that God will help you communicate the opportunity to escape from judgment that Jesus gives us. Praise God for the way He has passed over us and rescued us from death, leading us on a journey to eternal life in the future and abundant life right now.

*“ To all who receive Him, to those who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)*

**NOTES:**

What do we learn about New Testament theology from this story?

To illustrate the principle of substitution, George Sweeting, chancellor of Moody Bible Institute, told of a series of tornados that caused extensive damage in eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. Nearly one hundred lives were lost. Before the storm, a man named David Kostka was umpiring a Little League baseball game in Wheatland, Pennsylvania. When he saw the black funnel heading toward the field, he rushed into the stands and grabbed his niece. He pushed her into a nearby ditch and covered her with his body. Then the tornado struck. When the youngster looked up, her uncle was gone. He had given his life in the deadly storm to save her.

Many lambs gave their lives in ancient Egypt so the death angel would pass over the homes of the Hebrews. Years later the Lamb of God gave his life to cover the sins of all those who by faith would receive his gift of salvation.

Jesus' sacrifice can be studied and contemplated, but until a person applies the blood of Christ by faith to his or her own heart, there is no hope of eternity in his presence in heaven. The writer of Hebrews declared, "By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel" (Heb. 11:28). What did Moses have faith in? The answer is God's word, his revelation to Moses. God said it; he believed it. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. You cannot ignore the truth from God's promises and have this kind of peace, security, and hope. — Holman Old Testament Commentary - Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers