

LEAD SHEET

EXODUS: BEFORE THE SEA WAS PARTED - WK 5

THE PASSOVER

AUGUST 7, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:

DIALOGUE WITH GOD

If you want to know God better, talk to Him!

GETTING STARTED

We have been studying the book of Exodus for a few weeks now, but the Israelites are still in Egypt. That changes today. Before we talk about the Passover, which happened the night Israel leaves captivity, let's review what we know so far.

General Discussion:

- What is the point of the book of Exodus?
(God is present.)
- Who is the main character of our story? *(Moses.)*
- What is Moses' backstory? *(Moses was born in Egypt and should have been murdered, but he was rescued and raised as royalty instead. Then he fled Egypt but God called him to return, etc.)*
- What did we study last week? *(The 10 Plagues.)*

The Passover occurs along with one of these plagues—the last, the death of the firstborn son. It is the final straw for Pharaoh, and he finally consents to the demands of Moses and the Israelites.

DIGGING IN

Read Exodus 12:1-11

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the suggested celebratory food item for each household's Passover feast? (*A lamb.*)
2. How many days should each household care for the animal? (*Four, from the 10th to the 14th.*)
3. At what time of day were the lambs to be killed? (*Twilight, just before dark.*)
4. What were they supposed to do with some of the blood? (*Put it on the top and sides of the door frames of their homes.*)
5. What would they do next? (*Eat the lamb and unleavened bread.*)
6. How were they told to eat it? (*"In a hurry," with their cloak tucked into their belt, sandals on, staff in hand.*)

Read Exodus 12:12-13

Discussion Questions:

1. What will happen the same night the Israelites eat their Passover lamb? (*God will pass through Egypt.*)
2. What takes place during this time? (*Every first born Egyptian male is struck down, bringing judgment on the gods of Egypt.*)
3. How does the blood on the doorposts function? (*It is a sign that they are an Israelite, causing God to pass over their homes.*)

This is where the name "Passover" originates. God's judgment literally passed over those who belonged to Him. Moses instructs Israel on what they should do in verse 14-23, then he urges them to obey.

Read Exodus 12:24-28

Discussion Questions:

1. Where these instructions a one-time thing? Why or why not? (*No, they were to be repeated annually and observed as a reminder of what God had done.*)
2. Upon receiving these instructions, what did Israel do? (*They worshipped and obeyed.*)

Read Exodus 12:29-32

Discussion Questions:

1. When did God strike down the firstborn males of Egypt? (*Midnight.*)
2. What was Pharaoh's response? (*He got up in the middle of the night and urged Israel to leave Egypt.*)

Several times, both here in chapter 12 and in the following chapter, Moses reminds Israel to commemorate the Passover from that day forward.

Read Exodus 13:14

Discussion Questions:

1. When a child asks why the Passover is commemorated, what is the appropriate response? (*"The Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery"*)

This ceremony continued. In fact, even Jesus celebrated the Passover.

Read Mark 14:12-15

Discussion Questions:

1. What festival are they celebrating here? (*The Festival of the Unleavened Bread.*)
2. Why are they sacrificing a Passover lamb here? (*Because that was the custom.*)
3. What were they remembering? (*The exodus from Egypt.*)

These preparations are the same as those we read in Exodus 12. They eat unleavened bread and lamb as reminders that God rescued them from Egyptian slavery. However, this night is more significant than that.

MAKING IT REAL

Read 1 Corinthians 5:7 and 1 Peter 1:18-19

Discussion Questions:

1. According to 1 Peter 1:18, we are not redeemed by what? (*Silver or gold.*)
2. What redeems us according to verse 19? (*The precious blood of Christ.*)
3. How is Jesus described? (*As “a lamb without blemish or defect.”*)
4. How is Christ described in 1 Corinthians 5:7? (*“Our Passover lamb”*)
5. What happened to Jesus on our behalves? (*He was sacrificed.*)

In the New Testament, we find that Jesus not only celebrates the Passover, but He actually is our Passover Lamb.

General Discussion:

- Let's think through this a little deeper. How is Christ like the Passover Lamb of Exodus? (*He was sacrificed, He was blameless/spotless, He saves us from death, His blood is what causes God's judgment to pass us by, even Jesus' bones weren't broken, just as the Passover lamb's were not.*)
- How would first-century Jews, who had celebrated many Passovers in their lives, have thought about this? (*It would have carried a deep meaning to them.*)

You see, we have an Exodus story too. Once held captive in our sin, Jesus has freed us.

Read Romans 6:17 and Galatians 4:7

Discussion Questions:

1. To what did we used to be slaves? (*Sin.*)
2. What are we now?
(*Free, slaves to righteousness, heirs, etc.*)
3. What made the difference? (*Christ.*)

You see, in the same way that Israel was held captive by Pharaoh in Egypt, we also were once held captive by our sin. Just like the blood of a lamb set Israel apart as God's, the blood of Christ sets us apart as God's. In the same way that the lamb's blood kept God's judgment from Israel, Christ's blood keeps His judgment from us.

The cross was our Passover. We have been freed. If you accept Jesus as your savior, you will no longer be held in captivity of sin.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for your students to accept Jesus as their Passover lamb and all that it implies.