

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

STORY OF FAITH: WEEK 7

For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. (Exodus 12:23, ESV)

The Story of Faith continues in Exodus 12 this week, over 400 years after Joseph saved Egypt and his family during a severe famine. That generation has since died, and a new Egyptian Pharaoh comes to power who did not know the past. He believed the Israelites community was a threat, so he forced them into slave labor. He even commanded that all Hebrew baby boys be killed to further control the threat. This can be seen as Satan's attempt to interfere with God's promises to Abraham descendants and the royal blessing to Judah.

But God heard His people groaning and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 2:24). One baby boy, Moses, escapes Pharaoh's death sentence and grows up to become God's chosen instrument to lead His people out of slavery. In Exodus 7-11, God displayed His power over the Egyptians and their gods through the 10 plagues, including the death of every firstborn son in Egypt.

On the night before God rescued the Israelites out of Egypt, He commanded every family to sacrifice a perfect lamb and put some of its blood on their doorframe. If God saw the blood, He would "pass over" that house--withholding judgment--and move on to the next. If not... then the firstborn would die. In a very direct way, then, the blood of the Passover lamb saved God's people that night. The next day they left Egypt and began the journey back to the land He promised Abraham, and into a nation set apart for Him. A nation destined to be a blessing to the whole world.

Do not miss how this event foreshadowed Christ's death, and how His blood and substitutionary sacrifice on the cross saved you and me!

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EXODUS 12:12-13; 21-28 ESV

12 *For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.*

13 *The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.*

...

21 *Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans and kill the Passover lamb.*

22 *Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.*

23 *For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.*

24 *You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever.*

25 *And when you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service.*

26 *And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?'*

27 *you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'"* And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

28 *Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.*

DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS

on your own, with family, or with your small group

Read Exodus 12:1-30. Why do you suppose God was so specific on the details of the sacrificial lamb, their food, and their clothing that night (focus on verses 1-11)?

They were to select the lamb on the 10th day of the month (v. 3), and then take care of it for four more days (v. 6). Why do you suppose God wanted this to happen?

What is the significance of the blood on the door? Read the following verses to help with this question: Leviticus 17:11; Romans 6:23; and Hebrews 9:22.

What might have happened if an Israelite family had NOT sprinkled blood on the doorframe? And what might have happened if an Egyptian family HAD sprinkled blood on the doorframe? Discuss.

What was going on in Jerusalem when Jesus died? In fact, what day did He die? What is the significance of this connection and can you summarize the purpose of the Passover event?

Finally, in what ways does God's judgment of Egypt foreshadow His coming judgment on the entire world? He commanded them to finish the meal completely and be ready to leave Egypt in a hurry. How might that apply to believers today?