

EXODUS

YHWH GOES TO WAR

Small Group Guide: The Final Plague & Passover

Exodus 10:28-12:42

Opening Prayer

Begin your time by asking God to help you remember His faithfulness and to see His salvation story more clearly through this study.

Introduction & Icebreaker

Question: Can you think of a time when you forgot something important that God had done in your life? What helped you remember it again?

Key Scripture Passages

- Exodus 10:28-29 (Pharaoh's threat)
 - Exodus 11:1-10 (The final plague announced)
 - Exodus 12:1-13 (Institution of Passover)
 - Exodus 12:21-42 (The plague executed and Israel's deliverance)
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Main Themes & Discussion Questions

1. God's Supreme Authority

Key Takeaway: Yahweh demonstrated His supremacy over all Egyptian gods, including Pharaoh who claimed divine authority over life and death.

Discussion Questions:

- How does Pharaoh's claim "on the day you see my face, you shall die" (10:28) contrast with God's true authority?
- Where in our culture do we see people or things claiming authority that belongs only to God?
- What does this passage teach us about God's sovereignty over all creation, not just "religious" spaces?

2. The Pattern of Salvation

Key Takeaway: God looked for one thing only—the blood of the lamb on the doorposts. Similarly, God looks for one thing when we stand before Him—are we covered by the blood of Jesus?

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it significant that God didn't judge Israel based on their works, obedience, or faithfulness, but only on the blood of the lamb?
- How does this challenge our tendency to rely on our own good works for acceptance with God?
- Read Romans 3:21-26. How does Paul's teaching about righteousness connect to the Passover story?

3. Remember to Remember

Key Takeaway: God commanded Israel to celebrate Passover annually because He knew they would forget. As the sermon stated, "The Christian life is a combination of amnesia and déjà vu."

Discussion Questions:

- What are some ways we "forget" God in our daily lives? How does our forgetfulness show up practically?
- Why do you think God instituted regular remembrance practices (Passover for Israel, Communion for us)?
- How can we be more intentional about remembering God's faithfulness in our lives?

4. Leave the Old Leaven Behind

Key Takeaway: God told Israel to use unleavened bread as a symbol—don't bring Egypt's wickedness with you into your new life. We too must not let the old leaven of sin work through our new life in Christ.

Discussion Questions:

- What does "old leaven" look like in a Christian's life today?
- Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8. What specific "old yeast" does Paul warn against?
- Where might you be trying to hold onto old patterns, habits, or mindsets from your pre-Christ life?
- What does it practically look like to "put on the new self" (Ephesians 4:22-24)?

5. Pharaoh's Empty Request

Key Takeaway: Pharaoh said "bless me also" without any repentance or change. This mirrors much of modern Christianity—asking God to bless us without submitting to Him.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever caught yourself asking God to bless your plans rather than seeking His will?
 - What's the difference between asking God to bless us and truly surrendering to Him?
 - How can we guard against a "bless me without changing me" attitude in our walk with Christ?
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Practical Applications

Individual Reflection

Choose one or more of these practices for the week:

1. **Create a Remembrance Practice:** Start a journal or note in your phone titled "What God Has Done." Write down at least 3 things God has done in your life that you don't want to forget.
2. **Examine Your "Leaven":** Spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any "old leaven" you're still carrying. Confess it and ask for power to put it to death.
3. **Study the Cross:** Read through the crucifixion accounts in the Gospels this week, remembering that Jesus is our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).
4. **Prepare for Communion:** Before the next time you take communion, review what Christ has done for you. Come prepared to remember intentionally.

Group Challenge

Teach the Story: God commanded Israel to teach their children about the Passover (Exodus 12:26-27). This week, share your salvation story with someone—whether your own child, a friend, or someone who doesn't know Christ. Tell them what God has delivered you from.

Key Quotes from the Sermon

- "When he looks at us, will he see the faith of Jesus Christ covering us? That's it."
 - "We have to remember to remember."
 - "Don't bring the old with you. Put on the newness that you are in Christ."
 - "Lord, I don't want to make any changes. I don't want to yield my life over to you. I don't want to do it your way, but if you don't mind, could you bless me? That's where we are as a church."
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Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God for His supreme authority and His victory over sin and death
- Confess areas where we've forgotten His faithfulness or asked for blessing without surrender
- Ask for power to leave "old leaven" behind and live as new creations
- Pray for opportunities to share the story of God's deliverance with the next generation

For Next Week

Read Exodus 13-14 in preparation for the next study. Pay attention to how God continues to lead and protect His people.