



Exodus & Freedom- PART II

Weekly Group Bible Studies

Study 6: The Passover

A) Relate

Share about the most significant sacrifice that anyone (asides from Jesus) has personally made for you. What happened? Why did they do it for you?

B) Read Exodus 12:1-13; 21-32

C) Reflect

Pharaoh continued to stubbornly refuse Moses' request to let the Israelites go from Egypt, even with the warning of this last 'plague' where the firstborn of each household would die. God prophesied that when the plague took place, Pharaoh would cast Israel out of Egypt, so He prepared a way for them to be spared of the plague and to be ready to leave immediately. God provided a way for the Israelites to be spared from this disaster through the sacrifice of an unblemished lamb and marking the door and doorposts with its blood. Through this act of faith, the sacrificed lamb would be the substitute in place of the firstborn whose life would be spared. As you discuss this passage, consider what feelings the Israelites would have been experiencing. Consider the substitution God made to spare your life.

D) Respond

1. Who was given responsibility to find and sacrifice each Passover lamb and who would the sacrifice cover (12:3-6)? How do you think this might connect with God's desire for His people to be a "kingdom of priests" (Ex 19:5-6; 1 Pet 2:9)?
2. Why did the angel of death "pass over" the houses of the Israelites? How does this echo our redemption in Jesus? See also 1 Pet 1:17-19.
3. How were the Israelites to use the lamb's blood and its flesh? What is the New Testament fulfillment of this? See also 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 and 2 Tim 2:19.



4. Why do you think God directed Israel to annually celebrate the Passover festival when coming to the land He promised them (Ex 12:24-27)?
5. In the book of Revelation, Jesus is depicted as the Lamb who was slain. What does this passage reveal about the Lamb and His worth (Rev 5:11-14)? What should our response be?
6. Have you experienced the “Passover” of Jesus in your life as your sacrifice? How do you want to personally respond to these passages we have read today?

E) Rely

Thank Jesus for the sacrifice He made as a substitute for you because of our sins (If this is your first time to do so, you are invited to step into a personal relationship with Jesus). Spend time thanking Him specifically for the ways He has set you free. Ask Him to continue to lead you and others into the freedom He has won through His death and resurrection.



Study 7: CROSSING THE RED SEA

A) Relate

Share about a significant time you were discouraged or in despair and someone helped you through that situation. What was it like? How did their support help you?

B) Read Exodus 13:17-22; 14:10-31.

C) Reflect

Finally, the time had come, and Pharaoh sent Israel out of the Egypt! But the journey would not be easy as Pharaoh changes his mind (yet again!?) and Israel are wedged between the enemy and the Red sea. This passage reveals the compassion, kindness and power of God towards His people, and His glory and judgement upon his enemies.

As you reflect on these passages, consider how God may be challenging you personally and us as a church to step forwards into our full freedom in Christ.

D) Respond

1. How do we see God's thoughtfulness and provision to Israel (Ex 13:17-22)?
2. When Israel is wedged between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea, they start to despair because they cannot see a way forwards (Ex 14:10-12), can you relate to this feeling? What truths does Moses give in response (v13-14)?
3. What does Exodus 14:15-31 reveal about:
 - i. God?
 - ii. Faith?
 - iii. Salvation?
4. Share an experience where God guided, protected, rescued, or prompted you to step out in faith.
5. What are some situations God would love to deliver you from? That you would love God to deliver you from?



E) Rely

In this passage, God plans, strategizes, guides, provides, protects, directs and even overrides the laws of nature to set His people free. Are there ways in which you need Him to similarly move in your life? Share and pray about these areas. Pray for God's help to plan, strategize, guide, provide, protect, direct and override in your life for the sake of your freedom and His kingdom and His plans for you and the church.



Study 8: I WANT TO GO BACK TO EGYPT!

A) Relate

Share about times in your past that you sometimes wish you could return to?

B) Read Exodus 16:1-15

C) Reflect

The people of Israel have escaped from slavery in Egypt, but as they experience hardship on their journey of freedom, they start to complain about the lack of food. As they grumble against Moses and Aaron (and God), God responds with gracious generosity. Consider how this speaks to our human condition, and God's compassionate faithfulness.

D) Respond

1. What does the grumbling of the people reveal about their thoughts on Moses, Aaron and God? What does their preferred scenario reveal about their hearts?
2. What is the reason given twice about why God allows His people to suffer thirst, disappointment and hunger (Ex 15:22-27 & 16:4)? See also 1 Pet 1:6,7.
3. What do we discover about manna from this passage? What further insights does Deut 8:2 add to our understanding?

Read Exodus 16:16-35

4. It's noteworthy that sabbath is introduced before the Law (Ex 16:21-30), what can we learn about it from this passage?
5. How does Jesus reframe the sabbath and manna (Lk 6:1-11; Jn 6:33-38)?
6. What further insights can we discover about grumbling in 1 Cor 10:9-13?

E) Rely

Share and pray about any difficulties you are facing as you follow Jesus. Are there



ways you are tempted to “go back to Egypt” or grumbling that need to be confessed? Entrust these to God asking Him to transform the grumbling into trust.



Study 9: FREEDOM IN COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

A) Relate

A covenant relationship was a binding solemn agreement between two parties where each party bound themselves to fulfil certain conditions in relationship. Share your experiences of a committed friendship/relationship in your life.

B) Read Exodus 19:1-11

C) Reflect

Three months after Israel escapes Egypt, God is ready to take His relationship with His people to another level. Freedom from slavery was only part of the journey, the next stage of freedom would come through relationship! As you reflect on this passage, consider how God's people experience even greater freedom through covenant relationship with Him!

D) Respond

1. As God invites Israel to enter covenant relationship with Him, what condition does He require of them (Ex 19:5)?
2. Consider each aspect of God's promise on His side of the covenant. What is precious about each of these images? What stands out to you about each?
 - i. A treasured possession?
 - ii. A kingdom of priests?
 - iii. A holy nation?
3. What do you think motivates God to desire a treasured possession?
Deut 7:6-11.
4. Reflect and share your thoughts on the following quotes:
"Royal priesthood" may be understood as "a royal house," "a body of priests". Both titles stress the dignity of the church because of its union with Christ. Jesus is King, and all in his "house" belong to a royal house. Calling the church "a body of priests" emphasizes its corporate role in worship, intercession, and ministry- **Edwin Blum.**



“Israel was to be kings and priests to God on behalf of the nations; they were to be mediators of the gospel as missionaries to the nations (“in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,” Gen 12:3b), and they were to be partakers in the present aspects and coming reality of the “kingdom of God.”- **Walter Kaiser.**

5. As God’s people, what were we called out of and into (1 Peter 2:9-12)?

6. Reflecting upon this passage, what does God’s vision for our freedom reveal about God and His priorities for us and this world?

E) Rely

Share and pray about how your life and our church might lean more deeply into this vision that God has for us to be His treasured possession, His royal priesthood, and His holy nation. Pray for those whom God wants to reach through our lives!



Study 10: FREEDOM IN GOD'S PRESENCE

A) Relate

Share about a time when someone's presence or company gave you great joy, comfort or assurance.

B) Read Exodus 40:16-38

C) Reflect

Now that God and Israel were in covenant relationship, He instructs Moses to set up the tabernacle as a holy environment where God could reveal His manifest presence, meet and sojourn together with His people without them being destroyed. Consider the powerful reality of God's presence and what that means for Israel, and for us.

D) Respond

1. What stands out to you as Moses obediently sets up the tabernacle (v16-33)?
2. How does this foreshadow what was to come through Jesus (Heb 9:8-12)?
3. How does God respond when the tabernacle is ready and complete (v34-35)?
4. In what way did God manifest His presence amongst His people, and what important role did His presence have on their journeys (v36-38)?
5. How do the following verses deepen our understanding of God's presence in our lives personally?
 - i. John 14:21, 23
 - ii. Romans 8:14
 - iii. Revelation 3:20
 - iv. 2 Corinthians 3:17
6. How do the above passages speak to you personally about the role of God's presence in your journey of ongoing freedom in Christ?



E) Rely

How does this study stir your desire for more of God's presence? Take some time to invite and enjoy His presence in prayer and stillness. Share and pray with each other about ways you might be more inviting, aware and interactive in His presence- praying for a growing impact of God's presence in and around you.