

Small Group Guide: The Passover Meal and the Lord's Supper

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What is your favorite holiday meal and why? What memories or traditions make it special?

Sermon Summary

This sermon explored the connection between the Jewish Passover feast and the Last Supper Jesus shared with His disciples. By understanding the Passover meal—its elements, symbolism, and historical significance—we gain deeper insight into communion and what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. The Passover story reminds us that God works in both bitter and sweet seasons, and that Jesus is our sacrificial Lamb who delivers us from slavery to sin.

Key Takeaways

1. **The Passover meal tells the story of Israel's deliverance from Egypt** - Every element on the Passover plate has meaning, from the bitter herbs representing slavery to the lamb representing substitutionary sacrifice.
2. **Jesus is our Passover Lamb** - Just as the blood of the lamb saved the firstborn in Egypt, Jesus' blood saves us from the wrath we deserve because of sin.
3. **Suffering can be our classroom, not our coffin** - The Israelites faced 400 years of hardship, but God was shaping them into a nation. We choose whether trials make us bitter or better.
4. **Communion is deeply rooted in Jewish tradition** - Understanding Passover helps us appreciate the Lord's Supper more fully and see how Jesus fulfilled centuries of symbolism.
5. **Hope is the final message** - The Passover meal begins with suffering but ends with hope, just as our Christian journey does.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Passover

1. Before this sermon, what did you know about Passover? What new insights did you gain about this Jewish feast?
2. Look at the Passover plate elements (lettuce, parsley in salt water, bitter herbs, fruit and nut salad, lamb, unleavened bread). Which element speaks most powerfully to you and why?
3. The sermon mentioned four cups during Passover: sanctification, deliverance, redemption, and hope. Which of these four themes do you most need to focus on in your life right now?

Connecting to Jesus

4. Read 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 and John 1:29. How does understanding Jesus as "our Passover Lamb" change or deepen your view of what He did on the cross?
5. The middle piece of bread is broken, wrapped in linen, hidden, and later found for a prize. How does this tradition beautifully illustrate the gospel message?
6. Jesus said "Do this in remembrance of me" during Passover. How can understanding the Passover meal make your experience of communion more meaningful?

Personal Application

7. The sermon said: "We have a choice between feeling helpless or being hopeful." When facing trials, which do you tend toward? What helps you choose hope?

8. The Israelites cried out to God during their slavery, and God heard them. Is there an area of your life where you need to cry out to God right now? How can this group support you?
9. The lettuce represents both bitterness and sweetness—how their time in Egypt started sweet but became bitter, yet they also came in bitter circumstances but became fruitful. Can you identify a "bittersweet" season in your life where you can now see God was at work?

Going Deeper

10. The Israelites were also guilty of idol worship and deserved judgment, yet God provided a way of escape through the lamb's blood. What "false gods" (career, comfort, control, etc.) are you tempted to worship instead of the true God?
11. Read Exodus 12:1-13. What strikes you most about God's specific instructions for the Passover? What does this reveal about God's character?
12. The sermon mentioned that worshiping false gods brings out the wrath of God. How does understanding God's holiness and justice help us better appreciate His mercy and grace?

Practical Applications

This Week:

- **Reflect on Communion differently:** This Sunday (or whenever you next take communion), think about the Passover elements and what Jesus was communicating to His disciples.
- **Journal about sanctification:** Write about a difficult season in your life. Was it your "coffin" or your "classroom"? How did God shape you during that time?
- **Study the Passover:** Read Exodus 1-13 in its entirety. Take notes on what you learn about God's character and His plan of redemption.
- **Attend Good Friday service:** If your church is having a Good Friday service, make plans to attend and invite someone to join you.

This Month:

- **Host a Passover Seder meal:** Consider gathering your small group or family to experience a Passover Seder meal together. Many Christian resources are available to guide you through this meaningful experience.
- **Memorize Scripture:** Commit 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 to memory as a reminder of what communion represents.
- **Share your testimony:** Think about how Jesus has been your "Passover Lamb"—delivering you from slavery to sin. Share this with someone who needs hope.

Closing Reflection

Read together: "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the festival." (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

Reflection Question: How does understanding that Jesus is our Passover Lamb give you hope for this week?

Prayer Prompts

- Thank God for providing Jesus as our sacrificial Lamb
- Pray for those in the group facing "bitter" seasons—that God would use these as classrooms, not coffins
- Ask God to help us see Him at work in both good and difficult times
- Pray for hearts prepared to celebrate Easter with renewed understanding and joy

- Lift up anyone who needs deliverance, redemption, or hope
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For Next Week

Prepare your hearts for Easter Sunday! Invite friends and family to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with you. Reflect on what it means that the "hidden bread" was found—Jesus rose from the dead and offers eternal life to all who find Him.