

Discussion Guide

Section # 12 PASSOVER AND RESCUE FROM SLAVERY

Group Questions:

1. What appears to be the significance of the 'first son' in Egypt?
2. Do you think it is similar to the way that Chinese people look at the first-born son?

Leader Information: For the Jewish nation the rights of inheritance are bestowed on the oldest son. This included special privileges, a larger percentage of the family inheritance, and family leadership. For most cultures this system of honoring the firstborn son is much the same.

Read to the Group: Notice the value God placed on this family of faith. These promised descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were called by the different names of Jews, Hebrews, and the Children of Israel. God told Moses to say to Pharaoh,

“Israel is my son, even my firstborn. If you do not let my son go, I will kill your son, even your firstborn” (Exodus 4:22-23).

Group Questions:

1. How does this story establish the reliability of God's commitments?
2. We saw God's faithfulness to those who belong to Him. What other character traits of God are seen in the way He dealt with individual people and nations?

Leader Information: On the second question let them pull out answers from what they have seen in the Exodus story. They may say such things as:

- He judges harshly those who do not believe in Him
- He not only loves people He also physically rescues His followers
- He can control nature

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Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

“Then the Lord said to Moses”
(Moses and Pharaoh)... through...
“And the people believed in the Lord and His servant Moses”
(Drowning of the Egyptians in the sea, Moses and people on right watching)
6 minutes, 19 seconds



- He gives people lots of chances before He judges them
- He is more powerful than human rulers or armies

You may decide to bring up some of these traits if they don't. Point out that the truths we learn from the way God worked with the nation of the Jews are intended to demonstrate the character of God toward all nations and to all people.

Read to the Group: God made a special covenant with Abraham. Because of this covenant, God fought for the Jews and protected them. We see His love, but we also see His great power. Today that same kind of love and power is made available to those who trust in Jesus Christ.

Read this Scripture to the Group:

“God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that fears him, and works righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10: 34b-35).

Leader Information, Scripture:

“Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted....Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Corinthians 10:6 &11).

Read to the Group: The Jews were instructed to place blood around the door frame so that the angel of death would pass over their home.

Group Question:

1. What instructions did God give about a lamb?
2. Why do you think He protected people in the homes with the blood on the doors?
3. Do you see any similarities to any Chinese customs of keeping evil out of the homes?
4. How might you explain this similarity?

Leader Information: Possible responses to #1: One lamb for each household, a year old male, no imperfections, no bones broken, blood over top of doorway and sides.

Possible responses to #2: They obeyed God, God was showing them a blood sacrifice was needed to save them, They showed faith in God's instructions.

As parallels are drawn between the customs of a culture and the truths from the Bible, make sure the following point is made: Some truth from God has filtered into all cultures, but unfortunately many times the one creator God of the universe is not honored because vital details have been lost.

Read to the Group: Just as the flood story was written about in many cultures, it is interesting that this custom is also very similar. Very often we find stories similar to those in the Bible that are also found woven into the customs and stories of other cultures' beliefs.

The instructions to the Jews were very specific. If any Israelite chose not to believe God they would also lose their first born. If any Egyptian show belief by going in that night to the homes with the blood protection, they were spared.

The point was to demonstrate belief in God by following His exact instructions. The blood was a reminder that the punishment for sin is death. This Passover Feast became a picture of how God would provide a deliverer to save them from the penalty of death.

One more important event occurred after the Jews left Egypt. Pharaoh, the legal owner of the slaves, drowned along with the whole Egyptian army.

Group Questions:

1. What would that have meant to the Jews?
2. Why do you think God recorded this for us?

Leader Information: Reference for Pharaoh drowning:

Exodus 14:10 & 28: “And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.”



Read to the Group: Seeing Pharaoh drown would help the Jews visually see that their bondage was broken. Today many of us have had difficult backgrounds. Some possibly were abused or abandoned as children. Just as God defeated Pharaoh's hold on the Jews, God can break Satan's hold on our lives, and free us from the past to become a new creation.

Read this Scripture to the Group:

“By faith the Israelites passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians when they tried to attempt it they were drowned” (Hebrews 11:29).

Leader Scripture:

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Transition Statement: God kept His promises. He destroyed Pharaoh for not freeing the nation of Israel and He rescued the Jews from slavery. After seeing all of these miracles, will this newly freed people, show their appreciation by honoring and trusting God? We will soon find out in the next segment of this Bible video as we watch it now (*or* next time when we meet).