

## Passover Lesson 01 of 03 in the series "Unfolding Easter"

### I. It was no coincidence that Jesus was crucified during the celebration of Passover.

"Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed... When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. Jesus said, 'I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.'" Luke 22:7-16 (NLT)

- a. God commanded His people to observe Passover so they would always remember how He rescued them.

"This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the LORD. This is a law for all time... It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. And though he struck the Egyptians, he spared our families." Exodus 12:14 (NLT)

- b. The Passover celebration required the sacrifice of a spotless lamb.

"...on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household... The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects." Exodus 12:3,5 (NLT)

- c. Both the flesh and the blood of the Passover lamb were significant.

"They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal. That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast... For the LORD will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the LORD will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down..." Exodus 12:7-8, 23 (NLT)

### II. At the Lord's Supper, Jesus gave Passover a whole new meaning.

- a. Jesus commanded us to observe the Lord's Supper so we will always remember how He rescued us.

"...the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.' In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it.'" 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NLT)

"...the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 6:23 (NLT)

- b. The Lord's Supper requires the sacrifice of a spotless lamb.

"...God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT)

- c. In the Lord's Supper, both the body and the blood of Christ are important.

"...anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him." John 6:54-56 (NLT)

### III. God planned every detail of Jesus' crucifixion so that we could recognize Him as the Lamb of God.

"It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was the Passover). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out."

John 19:28-34 (NLT)

*Note:* Jesus died on the cross at the same time Passover lambs were being slaughtered throughout Jerusalem. "...the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. ...and do not break any of its bones." Exodus 12:6, 46 (NLT)

*Life Application:* We can bring all of our concerns to the Lord. He cares about the details of our lives. "The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives." Psalm 37:23 (NLT)

*Life Application:* We need to respond to God's amazing gift of His son. "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NLT)

*Life Application:* We must never forget what Christ did for us. "...every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again." 1 Corinthians 11:26 (NLT)

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. How did your family celebrate Easter when you were growing up?
2. Read Hebrews 10:1-4. What stands out to you in this passage about the Law of Moses (which includes the celebration of the Passover)?
3. Read Hebrews 8:1-2 and verses 6-13. What are the differences between the first and second covenants? Why do we celebrate the New Covenant?
4. Read Hebrews 9:11-15 and Ephesians 2:8-10. How would you explain to someone that they cannot do enough good to earn salvation and that Christ is the perfect sacrifice?
5. Read Titus 2:11-14. When you look at verse 14, what is the importance of understanding the freedom, forgiveness, identity, and purpose we receive from Christ's sacrifice?
6. Read Luke 22:14-20. What do you think about when you take the Lord's Supper (Communion)?
7. Read Romans 5:1-11. Name something that stands out to you in this passage.