

1 Corinthians 5:7b-8 NLT – 7b ...Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us. 8 So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth.

Hebrews 9:13-14 NLT - 13 Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. 14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

At the Last Supper Jesus picked up the bread representing His body and used it to bring life to those who would receive it. He blessed it, indicting it had been set apart for God's purposes, then He broke it and distributed it along with the cup of wine, so that all could partake of its goodness.

Christ's sacrifice purifies our conscience from sin and is a cause for us to celebrate (1 Cor 5:8). If you have access to bread/crackers and wine/juice, you can celebrate communion and worship God for the gift of life He has offered us through the body and blood of Jesus.

WRAP-UP

Passover was a time to remember when God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. But it was also pointing to a promise that God would deliver us from slavery to sin. We no longer must make sacrifices of bulls and goats to cleanse us from impurity because Jesus' sacrifice was made once and for all on the cross. He invites us to the communion table to partake of His gift of eternal life.

MEMORY VERSE.

*And he said to them, "This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many."
- Mark 14:22-24 NLT*

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life _____

Challenge.- On April 11 New Life will hold a Passover Experience. Plan to attend that event and learn more about the significance of Passover.

“Come to the Table” **Mark-Grace•Sacrifice•Hope- #2**

INTRODUCTION

In the 14th chapter of Mark verse 12 tells us that the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread was the day the Passover lamb was sacrificed. Jesus' journey towards the cross had begun. It was on this day that Jesus and his disciples shared their last meal. It instituted what we would later call communion, remembering the broken body and shed blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God. It was at the table that the Old Covenant and the New Covenant intersected, and we see what God had pointed us to throughout the centuries as Passover was observed. From this day forward we were no longer called to make annual sacrifices, instead, we were invited to come to the table and receive the gift of life through Jesus' sacrifice.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever participated in a Passover observance? If so, describe it.

Key Passage

Mark 14:24 NLT - 24 And he said to them, "This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Preparation

Matthew 26:2 NLT - 2 "As you know, Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

During Passover Jerusalem had swollen to around two million people as all the adult males of the land were required to attend the Festival of Unleavened Bread by law. Resources and accommodations would

be scarce. The disciples were making plans for Passover but they were also aware of the mounting threat to Jesus from the religious leaders as Jesus had recently told them of his impending death.

Mark 14:13-16 NLT - 13 So Jesus sent two of them into Jerusalem with these instructions: "As you go into the city, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. 14 At the house he enters, say to the owner, "The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?" 15 He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal." 16 So the two disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.

How do you think the disciples felt when they found that Jesus had things under control and had met their needs for Passover even before they asked? What does that tell us about Jesus' ability to meet the needs of those He cares for, including us, in times of uncertainty or fear?

Jesus understands our fear and uncertainty. Just as He provided for His disciples, He provides for us. When we feel anxious or threatened, we can be sure that He has prepared a place of safety for us, and we can find peace and rest in Him.

2. At the Table

On the day of His betrayal, Jesus cared for the disciples. He knew what lay ahead and He had taken care of the details. At the table they found a place of safety where they were loved, where they belonged, and where they could celebrate together.

Exodus 13:3-4 NLT - 3 So Moses said to the people, "This is a day to remember forever--the day you left Egypt, the place of your slavery. Today the LORD has brought you out by the power of his mighty hand. (Remember, eat no food containing yeast.) 4 On this day in early spring, in the month of Abib, you have been set free.

Why was the celebration of Passover important to the Jews? How did it define their relationship to God?

It was also at the table Jesus told them the difficult truth of his betrayal. When Jesus told His twelve closest companions that one of them would betray him, scripture says they were distressed (*lypeō*). The word means they were grieved, felt pain and sorrow. They did not ask Jesus, "Who is it?", but they all asked "Am I the one?"

Mark 14:17-21 NLT - 17 In the evening Jesus arrived with the twelve disciples. 18 As they were at the table eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you eating with me here will betray me." 19 Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, "Am I the one?" 20 He replied, "It is one of you twelve who is eating from this bowl with me. 21 For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!"

Why do you think they asked Jesus if they would betray Him? Have you ever asked God to reveal something about yourself that you were unaware of? What makes this a difficult thing to do?

When Jesus said, "The Son of Man must die as the Scriptures declared long ago." he made it clear that the situation was not outside of His control. Even in the darkest hour, we can trust that God has a plan and He has not lost control, despite our inability to see it.

3. A New Observance

Jesus' last supper wasn't just a meal, it was a Passover. The Passover was more than a remembrance of the Exodus of the past, it was also prophetic of Christ as the promised Messiah. On this night Jesus redefined the meaning of the Passover Table.

Mark 14:22-24 NLT - 22 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it, for this is my body." 23 And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And he said to them, "This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many.

The Jews were told by God through Moses to observe Passover as a day of remembrance when the Lord brought them out by His power and set them free from slavery in Egypt. But Jesus said do this "in remembrance of me."

God set the Jews free from Egyptian slavery, what was Jesus setting us free from?

God's power was demonstrated in the plagues and parting of the Red Sea. How would Jesus' power be demonstrated?

God provided manna in the wilderness, how is Jesus like unleavened bread?