

Group Discussion Guide for Week of 4/11/2022

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; Exodus 12:1-30 (NIV)

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, **2** “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. **3** Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. **4** If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. **5** The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. **6** Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. **7** Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. **8** That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. **9** Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. **10** Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. **11** This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover. **12** “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. **13** The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. **14** “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. **15** For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. **16** On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do. **17** “Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. **18** In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. **19** For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. **20** Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.” **21** Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. **22** Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. **23** When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. **24** “Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. **25** When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. **26** And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ **27** then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. **28** The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron. **29** At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. **30** Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

General Question Bank

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)
Know (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)
Together (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

Discussion/Topic Starter (Ice Breaker)

- What are your formative memories of holy week and Easter?

Exodus 12:1-30

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

***Another way to ask: “Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you’re intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further.” Now share it with the group

- O: Notice all the steps the Israelites are to take in order to be spared from the plague of the firstborn. What details strike you as significant or odd? (12:1-13)
- O: Describe the details of the memorial Feast of Unleavened Bread (12:14-20). How effective do you think it would be as a perpetual feast of commemoration year after year? What are the challenges? The joys?
- I: Picture yourself as a parent or community leader in Israel. How do you explain the meaning of the Lord’s Passover to your kids or community? (12:26-27)
- I: The apostle Paul says that Christ is our Passover lamb in 1 Corinthians 5:7. What is required of a person for Jesus to be our Passover lamb? What does Christ our Passover lamb protect us from?

- A: The blood of a perfect lamb was the shield against “the destroyer” (12:23) in Egypt. Read John 1:29, Hebrews 9:14, and Revelation 5:13. What is your response to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world?
- A: Consider congregating with Riverside on Friday night at 6:30pm for our Good Friday service, as we immerse ourselves in the story of Jesus and his passion journey to the cross—and then again on Sunday for Resurrection Sunday!

-How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

Recommended Follow-up:

Pray: Pray together, and really focus in on that we are meeting with God, He's in the room, and He wants us to KNOW Him. Pray together, spend some time being silent.

Respond: Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's devotional guide.

An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides^{*}:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a “**Know, Be, Do**” person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides. We believe the process for this transformation happens in community, hence the “**Together**” part of the Riverside mission as well.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”
- “**Together**, what is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on [Colossians 1:9-10](#), see below)

Know – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God.”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

Be – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

Do – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *“⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)* To aid in this process Riverside also has a [**daily devotional guide available each week**](#).

Colossians 1:9-10, NIV

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...

^{*} As discussed in Riverside’s HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide was created in consultation with *Echoes of Exodus*, Alastair Roberts and Andrew Wilson, 2018; *Exodus: Life Change Series*, The Navigators, 1989; *Exodus 1-19*, James Reapsome; and *Exodus: Knowing the Bible*, Matthew Newkirk, J. I. Packer.