

# Group Discussion Guide for Week of 5/1/2022

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Exodus 12:43-13:16 (NIV)*

<sup>43</sup>The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “These are the regulations for the Passover meal: “No foreigner may eat it. <sup>44</sup>Any slave you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised him, <sup>45</sup>but a temporary resident or a hired worker may not eat it. <sup>46</sup>“It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones. <sup>47</sup>The whole community of Israel must celebrate it. <sup>48</sup>“A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the Lord’s Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat it. <sup>49</sup>The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you.”<sup>50</sup>All the Israelites did just what the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. <sup>51</sup>And on that very day the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.

**13** The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. <sup>4</sup>Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving. <sup>5</sup>When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month: <sup>6</sup>For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord. <sup>7</sup>Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. <sup>8</sup>On that day tell your son, ‘I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’<sup>9</sup>This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that this law of the Lord is to be on your lips. For the Lord brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. <sup>10</sup>You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year. <sup>11</sup>“After the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors, <sup>12</sup>you are to give over to the Lord the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons. <sup>14</sup>“In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>15</sup>When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’<sup>16</sup>And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.”

## 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)

- Describe your favorite meal experience? What makes it stand out?

## Exodus 12:43-13:16

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: How would the Passover restrictions (12:43-49) encourage foreigners and others to worship God and, at the same time, preserve Israel from religious compromise?

O: What message is God sending to the Israelites by these rules at the outset of their independence?

I: How might this relate to our call to simultaneously preserve the essential elements of our faith in Christ and extend his offer of salvation and proclaim his kingdom to all people?

I: God calls Israel to dedicate to him that which he has just delivered—the firstborns and the whole nation of Israel, plus many others! What details of this dedication stand out to you? (13:8-10, 14-15)

A: Exodus 13:11–13 says that all firstborn males in Israel were to be set apart for God. This meant that either they were to be sacrificed (certain animals) or they were to receive a sacrifice (all male children, certain other animals). What would such a substitution remind an Israelite of? What does this sacrifice point forward to?

A: This week’s practice is anchored in our weekly practice of Communion, where the whole covenant community comes to the Table together at Christ’s invitation. Visit [riversidecommunity.org/practices](http://riversidecommunity.org/practices) and read about how Communion translates into the practice of eating as fellowship and mission. Eat together this week!

**-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: *<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup> See 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,...*

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\* 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.