

# BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

Small Group Study Guide: Exodus

Week of October 8 (Week 5)

Exodus 12:1-28



## Sermon Overview

Through the institution of the Passover, we see God telling Moses and Aaron that the destroyer was going to strike down the firstborn. This judgment would fall on both the Egyptians and the Israelites. No favoritism would be shown to the Hebrews. If they persisted in unbelief and refused to kill the lamb and spread the blood on the doorpost, they too would perish. Likewise, this way of escape was open to the Egyptians who would put their faith in the blood of the lamb, and certainly some did. We know that there were Egyptians who later left Egypt with the Israelites, having put their faith in the one true God, rejecting the gods of Egypt (Ex. 9: 20). This salvation was by grace through faith expressed by brushing the blood of the lamb on the doorpost.

So many people have so many ideas about what it means to be a Christian. Many people think a Christian is someone who believes in God and tries to be good. The truth is, a Christian is a person who recognizes that he or she is a sinner deserving nothing less than the terrifying judgment of God and takes refuge in nothing other than the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. If this is you, you have no need to fear the day when we will all stand before God. You can know that you will be protected on that day from the judgment you deserve. Not because God will go soft and overlook your very real guilt, but because God will look at you and see that the blood has been applied. The blood of the Lamb will be your source of protection when judgment falls. This is the overwhelming grace of God's gospel.

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## Getting Started

Think through the first nine plagues that Egypt endured. Which one do you think would be most miserable or horrifying, and why?

## Starting with God

1. The Bible exists to reveal to us the character and nature of God. Much of the Bible reveals God through his actions and interaction with his people and others. Consider all of the elements of the Passover in Exodus 12. What does the Passover tell us about God's character and nature?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 5:7; John 1:29; Hebrews 2:14-15. What do these verses tell you about God's Passover? Has the cross always been God's plan? What do these verses, along with the Passover, tell you about the nature of God's rescue of his people?

### Living God's Word

3. Imagine that you were an Israelite who had grown up as a slave in Egypt and had little knowledge of God. What do you think your thoughts might be about Moses's instructions to slay the lamb and sprinkle the blood? And what do you think your thoughts would have been the next morning after the destroyer came through Egypt?
4. Many people are comfortable with a God who saves but are uncomfortable with a God who judges. Have you experienced this tension in your life and faith? Do you believe God's judgment and salvation can be separated or mutually exclusive?
5. Read Exodus 12:27. The reactions of the Israelites in this passage summarizes the purpose of the exodus and God's work in our life. What is that action and how can the fact that that action is our purpose change the way we see life?
6. Throughout this study, we are seeking to grasp how the passage we're studying fits into the bigger story of God's plan for redemption. Apart from Christ, the Passover sacrifice and covering of blood simply wouldn't make any sense. And apart from the story of the lamb sacrificed for Passover, the death of the Lamb of God as our substitute wouldn't really make any sense. How do you see God's sovereign control of history in the details of these two events?

### Prayer

Father God, thank you for your perfect plan of salvation. Please give us the faith to trust in our hearts and display with our actions that you are our hope and rescue.

Amen.