Moses 3

Passover – Leaders version

For a one hour study, just do the starred * questions

Check in – with the group sitting in a semi circle go round and ask everyone, including leaders, how they are and how they're feeling about studying the Bible today.

1. What do you remember from the last study?

You may like to use a flip-chart and do this question as a group shout-out. Write down wrong answers too, and at the end of the shout-out, ***circle the right answers*** *(don't cross out the wrong ones – this is a form of criticism which people may not be able to handle). See how many of the plagues they can name.*

What does the passage say and mean?

60 minutes

2. What was the 10th and final plague that God sent on Egypt? (Exodus 11:5)

Death to the first-born in every family.

*3. In between the 9th and 10th plagues, God gave Moses and his brother Aaron some special instructions. He told them to tell the people to choose a lamb for each family. Read Exodus 12:6-8. What were they to do with the lambs?

Take care of them until a certain day. Then slaughter them, put the blood on their door-posts, and eat the meat in a special way.

*4. Read Exodus 12:12-13. What was about to happen and what was the significance of the lambs' blood?

The plague on the first-born. The lambs' blood was a sign that the house belonged to an Israelite and God said that he would not touch the people in the houses with blood. Obviously, God knew which were Israelite houses without the blood telling him – the blood simply showed that a sacrifice had been made on behalf of the occupants – a substitution has been made.

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*5. God is not going to send 10 plagues today. But what danger are we in?

Danger of God's judgement and wrath. Our sin separates us from God and if we remain separated from God, it leads us to hell.

Questions 6-8 are **SELF-DIRECTED QUESTIONS**. You need to write them on flip-chart sheets for the group to work on in pairs.

*6. **SDL** Read 1 Corinthians 5:7, focussing on its last sentence. What did the sacrifice of the Passover lambs point forward to?

Jesus' sacrificial death in our place – Jesus paid the penalty for our sins (i.e. death) on our behalf. Jesus is 'our Passover lamb'.

*7. **SDL** Compare 1 Corinthians 5:7 with Exodus 12:13. What do these verses show us that Jesus' death achieved?

Jesus' blood, shed on the cross as a sacrifice, protects us from God's wrath. Jesus is our substitute – he experienced God's anger on behalf of repentant sinners and died in their place. If we don't trust in his sacrifice for us then we remain God's enemies, subject to his wrath.

*8. **SDL** Read Exodus 12:26-27. Why do you think God told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover every year?

So that they didn't forget what God had done for them, when he brought them out of Egypt. And they had to tell their children so that the future generations didn't forget either.

*9. The day before Jesus died was a Passover celebration. Read Matthew 26:26-28. How do we remember Jesus' sacrifice, based on these verses?

Jesus used the Passover bread and wine to represent his body and blood which would be given on the cross. We use these symbols of his body and blood in the communion. These verses show that Jesus' death was the ultimate Passover.

10. Read Exodus 12:21-23. The Israelites had seen 9 plagues, and were still slaves of an angry Pharaoh. What do you think they thought about what Moses told them to do? Read v28 – what did they do? Are you surprised?

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*11. Read Exodus 12:29-30. What happened that night? Does this surprise you?

All the first-born in Egypt died. People may not be surprised, since this is what God had said would happen. But they may be surprised that God would do this. This is a demonstration of God's judgement, but God had given Pharaoh warning in Ex11. If we cannot accept a view of God that includes judgement, then we do not know who God really is. However, God's judgement is always fair, and is not without warning and a rescue option.

*12. What is the result of the 10th plague? (Exodus 12:31-32)

Pharaoh tells them to go, with all they possess. He finally surrenders.

13. God goes one step further – what else happens before the Israelites leave Egypt? (Exodus 12:35-36)

The Israelites plunder Egypt's gold – with permission from the Egyptians!! God has provided currency for them (remember, they were slaves – they had nothing except their flocks).

14. What do we know about the people who left Egypt that night? (Exodus 12:37-38)

There were a lot of them – 600,000 plus women and children, on foot. They would have moved very slowly due to so many people and animals. There were people with them who were not Israelites by birth – maybe the Egyptians mentioned in Exodus 9:20?

15. What do you think is going to happen next?

Don't give the game away – we'll look at this next time! Just let them brainstorm.

*16. **STICKERS** What have you learnt about God, from read the story of Moses so far?

He loves his people, he will protect them and go to great lengths to rescue them, he is a judge, he knows what's going to happen, he uses ordinary people to do his work etc.

How can I live according to these truths in my life?

20 minutes

1. The Israelites celebrated Passover every year, so they didn't forget what God had done for them. What acts of God in your life do you need to remember regularly?

*2. What is the problem with a view of God that doesn't include judgement? Does judgement feature in your understanding of God?

On a practical level, if we don't understand that God is going to judge us, then we are unable to see that we are in any trouble as a consequence of our sin. Theologically, if God was not our judge, he wouldn't care

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about sin and could just brush it under the carpet. But that would mean that he was not just. God is a holy God and our sin is so offensive to him that it must be dealt with – it is so bad that its consequence is death.

*3. Think of one new thing that you have learnt about God in this study. How is this new understanding going to affect your life this week?

Encourage them to think of ways this new information about God will affect their prayer, attitude, behaviour etc.

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6, 7, 8 **SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING**

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