

"WHO IS JESUS?" FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 9, October 15



JESUS IS THE PASSOVER LAMB

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:7B



oses was God's chosen leader, the deliverer, equipped for the task and empowered by God. In spite of his reluctance and fear, Moses obeyed God and ap-

proached Pharaoh, saying, "Let my people go!"

But Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he refused. So God sent miraculous signs and wonders. He first turned the Nile River to blood. The Nile supplied the Egyptians' drinking water, their transportation, their fertile soil, their papyrus for making paper, and more. It was what made them prosperous and wealthy—it was their source

of life! And God turned it into a bloody river of death.

But was that enough to make Pharaoh relent? No. So God sent more plagues. Plagues of frogs, gnats, flies, dying animals, boils, hail, and locusts. God was showing his power over the gods of the Egyptians. No amount of praying to the river god, the sky god, the agriculture god, the cattle god, the skin diseases god, or any other god would help them, because those gods weren't real!

But still Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go.

After eight terrible plagues, God sent the plague of darkness. To us it doesn't seem worse than frogs in your bed, or all your food for the next year being eaten up by locusts, but to the Egyptians it was a big deal. You see, the Egyptians' most important god was Re, the sun god, and the pharaoh himself was considered a son of Re. Through this plague God was telling the Egyptians, "Your gods aren't real! Re isn't helping you, is he? I'm more powerful than even the sun itself!"

But that was not the worst. The tenth plague would be the one that would push Pharaoh over the edge. It would be so awful that Pharaoh would beg that they leave, sending them with plunder of gold, silver, and clothes. The tenth plague would be the Israelites' ticket to freedom, a night they would remember forever.

Moses warned Pharaoh, but still he would not listen. At midnight God would travel through the land of Egypt, killing the firstborn son in every house. But the Israelite homes would be spared if they followed the Lord's instructions.

Each family was to choose a perfect year-old lamb and slaughter it. Then they must take some of its blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of their houses. That night they must eat the meat of the lamb, roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. They must eat quickly and be ready to go; their cloak tucked into their belt, their

sandals on their feet, and their staff in hand.

With the sign of blood on the doorframes of their homes, the Lord would pass over them, not letting the angel of death enter.

That night would become known as the Passover, because God literally passed over the homes of the Israelites, but in every Egyptian house someone was dead. God spared his people because he saw the blood of the lamb. For generations they would celebrate this night, sacrificing a lamb and telling their children how God had delivered them from slavery.

This Passover and all those sacrificed lambs point us to another act of mercy and one perfect Lamb. Jesus became the final, perfect Lamb, slain for our sake. When God sees the blood of his Son marking the doorframes of our hearts, his judgment passes over us. He spares us from his wrath, and instead welcomes us to his promised land.



REFLECT

- 1. Do some research as a family on the gods of the Egyptians. What gods might each plague be attacking?
 - 2. How was Jesus the perfect Lamb? See 1 Peter 1:19.
 - 3. Why is this night called the Passover?
- 4. Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. Read Matthew 26:26–29. What reason did Jesus give for pouring out his blood?

BIBLE REFERENCE EXODUS 4-12

KEY VERSE 1 CORINTHIANS 5:7B