

03 THE FIRST PASSOVER

KEY TEXT: **EXODUS 12:21-32**

CENTRAL truth

This week, as we learn about the first Passover meal, we will be reminded of God's rescuing power. The event that this Hebrew feast remembers is woven into the fabric of Israel's story, and it foreshadowed the arrival of an infinitely greater Passover Lamb. Through this teaching, we'll discover that **God calls us to remember and celebrate His saving work in our lives.**

key question

How can we see both the Lord's judgment *and* His mercy in the Passover event?

Though the firstborn males of the Egyptians were killed as an act of judgment on Egypt, the people of Israel were mercifully protected from this same judgment and delivered from captivity. Through the blood of the lambs that they smeared on their door frames, they were spared.

keep in mind

- The final plague involving the death of the firstborns will likely trouble some students. Using the leader's notes and **Give an Answer** section to guide you, help students to see both God's righteous judgment and His mercy in this event. Come prepared to assist students with tips for engaging with difficult passages in the future.
- Since Passover is one of the most important Hebrew festivals, students may ask why Christ followers don't celebrate this holiday. Using the **Theology Note**, help students to see that the Passover event foreshadowed the greater saving work of Jesus. Using the bread and wine as symbols, Jesus taught that He was the better Passover Lamb who was sacrificed to secure our freedom and reconcile us to God. We continue to celebrate His sacrifice each time we participate in the Lord's Supper.

application

How does this week's passage help us understand Jesus's work and the practice of communion better?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: God is both merciful and just. Encourage students to intentionally remember and celebrate His saving work in our lives, both on their own and with those around them.

FOR THE LEADER: This week's passage is likely to be a difficult one for some students. You have the opportunity for your group to be a safe environment for students to wrestle with questions as you provide helpful tips on how to wrestle with challenging passages in the Bible.

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