



Scripture



Exodus 7:14-18; 12:3-8,12-13,29-32

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is hard: He refuses to let the people go. **15** Go to Pharaoh in the morning. When you see him walking out to the water, stand ready to meet him by the bank of the Nile. Take in your hand the staff that turned into a snake. **16** Tell him: The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to tell you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness, but so far you have not listened. **17** This is what the LORD says: Here is how you will know that I am the LORD. Watch. I am about to strike the water in the Nile with the staff in my hand, and it will turn to blood. **18** The fish in the Nile will die, the river will stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink water from it.” ... **3** “Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they must each select an animal of the flock according to their fathers’ families, one animal per family. **4** If the household is too small for a whole animal, that person and the neighbor nearest his house are to select one based on the combined number of people; you should apportion the animal according to what each will eat. **5** You must have an unblemished animal, a year-old male; you may take it from either the sheep or the goats. **6** You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter the animals at

twilight. **7** They must take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat them. **8** They are to eat the meat that night; they should eat it, roasted over the fire along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.” ...

12 “I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and strike every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, both people and animals. I am the LORD; I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. **13** The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.” ... **29** Now at midnight the LORD struck every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, and every firstborn of the livestock. **30** During the night Pharaoh got up, he along with all his officials and all the Egyptians, and there was a loud wailing throughout Egypt because there wasn’t a house without someone dead. **31** He summoned Moses and Aaron during the night and said, “Get out immediately from among my people, both you and the Israelites, and go, worship the LORD as you have said. **32** Take even your flocks and your herds as you asked and leave, and also bless me.”

Unit .04

Session .05

God Frees His People

In groups of two to three, list with three “false gods” our society turns to for security.

What are some idols in your life that God may need to confront to draw your attention back to Him?



99 Essential Doctrines

God Is One

The Bible affirms that God is one, as seen in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, otherwise known as the Shema. In both Old and New Testament times, the advocacy of monotheism (belief in one God) was contrary to the surrounding culture. Where most cultures practiced polytheism (belief in multiple gods) or henotheism (the worship of one god with the belief in multiple gods), the people of God knew, based upon God’s self-revelation, that Yahweh, the Lord, is the only one true God.

Main Point

God's people are saved through a substitute.

What warnings might we receive from God today when we refuse to listen to His instruction? What does it take for God to get your attention?

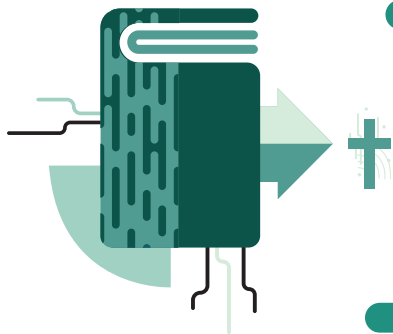
Why was it important for the sacrificial lamb to be spotless? What did being spotless signify?

In Defense



Skeptics will often say Christian faith isn't rational or founded upon the evidence, but is the result of wishful-thinking. Of course, the way the Bible presents faith—and two thousand years of church history—nothing could be further from the truth. Faith has never been an intellectual blind leap into the dark, but has always stood on historical facts and evidences. Even here, it is reasonable to conclude that the Israelites needed to witness these miraculous plagues themselves in order to have faith that God had heard them and was coming to their rescue. While faith is much more than evidence, faith certainly relies upon the evidence and makes use of it. Historical evidences like the resurrection of Jesus are what serve as the very bedrock of our faith.

The blood on the door was a public statement for all to see. How does this influence the way we think of our faith?



Christ Connection

Just as a spotless lamb was sacrificed in order to spare God's people from His judgment in Egypt, so also Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb who was sacrificed in order to protect us from God's wrath.



Head

How does this account highlight both God's judgment and grace?

What can we learn from this account about not taking God's grace for granted in our lives?



Heart

Why is it easy to put our trust in things we can see (money, people, etc.)? What lies do people in our culture turn to for security, purpose, and joy in life?

How might these lies have impacted the church?

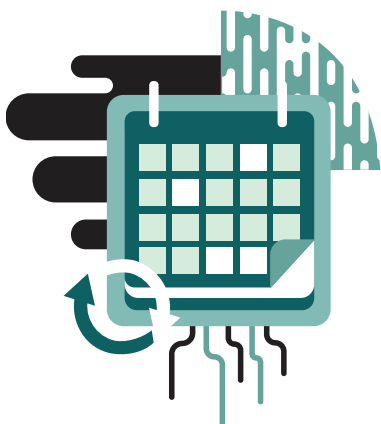


Hands

How is the culture Moses and Aaron faced in Egypt similar to ours today when it comes to speaking truth?

What are some false gods in your social circles, community, school, family? How can you start addressing these this week with the truth of the gospel?

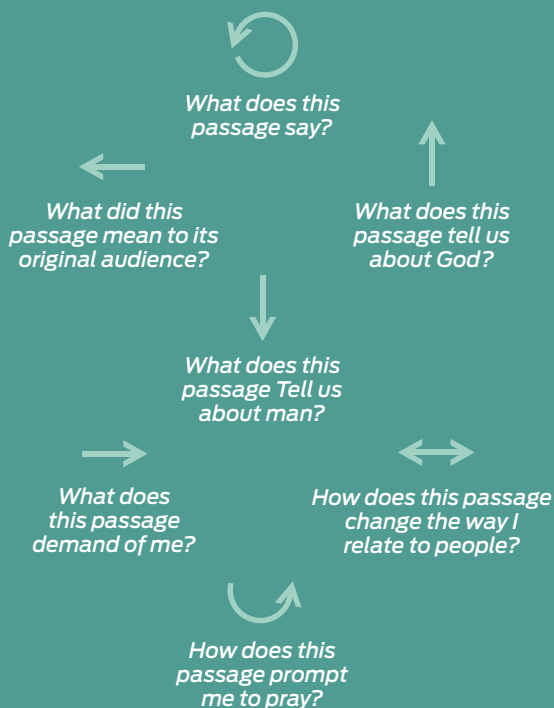
Daily Devotions



Day 1

Exodus 5:1–6:27

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



When Moses first addressed Pharaoh and said God wanted the Egyptian to let His people go, Pharaoh's response was to immediately question who God was and what authority He had (5:2). It is a response of open defiance against God, a posture of the mind and heart that Pharaoh would come to regret. When we read this, we are right to pause in disbelief. How foolish of Pharaoh! But, thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit, we should be quick to recognize that we are prone to echo Pharaoh in our sin. There are times when we stand before God in defiance and ask Him who He is as we arm wrestle Him for control of our lives.

This is why the gospel is such good news to us. This is why God's unending mercy and grace is so critical—not just as the pathway to salvation, but for the journey forward from the moment of our salvation. This is why it is so vital for us to understand Christ has given us His righteousness. Even in Christ, we want to resurrect our old, dead, fallen selves and live in rebellion. We would rather live as a fraud, than live out our new, true identity as children of God.

In what ways might you be living in open rebellion against God?

Exodus

7:1–8:32

Imagine if Pharaoh's heart was not hardened. Maybe he would have let God's people go sooner and likely would have tried to take credit for doing so. After a few difficult plagues, surely the people would have been grateful for their leader's wisdom. However, that isn't what happened. Instead, there was an even greater purpose in Pharaoh's hardened heart. Each of the plagues was designed to confront a different false god. Because Pharaoh's heart was hardened, God was able to strike down ten false gods, including Pharaoh himself. God did not just beat one Egyptian god, or a couple gods—He defeated ten of them and showed that He, the One true God has all authority and power. He can do what many different Egyptian gods were supposedly needed to do.

This was the wisdom of God, this was the heart of God, in hardening Pharaoh's heart.

Why is it important to hold God's sovereignty and your responsibility in balance? Do you tend to lean one way? Why?

Exodus

9:1–10:29

The Nile had turned to blood. Frogs, gnats, and flies had invaded the land. Livestock had died and people and animals had suffered festering boils. God then promised destructive hail. God had revealed His amazing power, and He would continue to do so. But don't miss what He told Moses to pass along to Pharaoh before the hail: "By now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague, and you would have been obliterated from the earth" (9:15).

The power the Egyptians and Israelites were seeing was a sliver of what God is capable of. The same God who created the universe by His words could also speak the Egyptians out of existence. Egypt was not seeing God's full power for one reason: grace. It was God's grace that withheld the rightful judgment the Egyptians and Israelites deserved. This same grace holds His judgment today. This is the message of the gospel. God is holy and powerful, and we deserve judgment. At the same time, God is loving and merciful, so He withholds His judgment from us and placed it on His Son instead.

How aware are you of God's grace day-by-day and minute-by-minute?

Exodus

11:1–12:28

Four days. That is how long the Israelite families were to take in the lamb they had chosen for the Passover. Why four days? Why not choose this lamb right before the Passover? One reason seems to be allowing time for the families to observe the lamb and notice any defects that would disqualify it from being a worthy sacrifice. But there is another potential reason: attachment.

God may have wanted the families to get to know this lamb. Perhaps even to love it. Because in doing so, they would appreciate the sacrifice of this lamb all the more. Saving the life of the firstborn came at a cost—and it wasn't paid by just a lamb pulled randomly from the flock—it was by a lamb that they had come to know.

If so, this is yet another layer of complexity and beauty of the picture of the gospel the Passover painted. Our salvation did not come from a random person. Our sacrifice was provided by the spotless Lamb of God who we know and love.

How does your love for Christ deepen your appreciation of the cross?

Exodus

2:29–51

As we read through Exodus 12, we might be overwhelmed with the rush of details leading up to Israel's departure from their Egyptian captivity. The details of the Passover observance are rich and theologically weighty. The death and wailing through the land is sobering. The release and plundering are affirming. So it is easy for us to miss a detail that seems small, but is quite significant. As Pharaoh told Moses to take his people and leave, he asked Moses to bless him (v. 32). This is important, because blessings always move from the superior toward the subordinate. By this simple request, Pharaoh acknowledged what God wanted him to learn all along—that God was greater.

We cannot go too far and see this as a salvific experience for Pharaoh: After this, he chased Moses and the Israelites, intending to slaughter or recapture them. But this request is further evidence of God's wisdom in hardening Pharaoh's heart. Through his hardness of heart, Pharaoh—and no doubt many other Egyptians—finally saw and acknowledged God's glory.

In what ways might God be using you to reveal His glory to others—even through your suffering and adversity?