

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of March 30, 2014

This Week's Focus: Jesus our Redeemer and Passover

This Week's Text: 1 Corinthians 5:7, Mark 10:45

"The Passover is a gospel before the gospel...All those colorful, dramatic ordinances and rituals of the Old Testament prefigured and foreshadowed the work of Christ. Redemption, substitution, atonement are no afterthought of God." **A.W. Criswell**

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. **Luke 22:19-20**

<u>Related Texts</u>: Genesis 22; Exodus 12, 22:28-29; Numbers 18:15; Leviticus 17:11; Ephesians 1:7-8, 5:2; Matthew 6:11-12, 26:26-29

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- In what ways does the different aspect of the atonement affect our worship?
- Why was God's command to sacrifice Isaac even more extraordinary than it may at first appear in light of the culture of the day?
 - Why is Abraham's statement in Genesis 22:2 and 5 particularly significant?
 - What are the implications of Isaac being the first born and the debt that every family owed to God because of their sin? Reference Exodus 13:11-16 and Numbers 18:15-16.
 - Discuss the social, emotional and economic implications of the debt.
 - What does that tell us about the need for redemption?

- In what ways is the story of Abraham and Isaac a foreshadowing of the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - How are the stories similar and dissimilar?
 - How has God tested you in the past?
- Discuss God's warning in Exodus 12:12-13. God's judgment threatened both Egyptians and Hebrews.
 - What does this warning suggest about the sinfulness of all humanity?
 - Why would God include the Hebrews in His judgment?
- How were the Israelites saved from God's righteous judgment? What were they saved from and to?
- What does that tell us about His love and holiness and His prescribed ways of entering into His presence?
- Jesus shared the Passover with His disciples.
 - In what ways is the story of the Passover foreshadowing of the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - How are the stories similar and dissimilar?
 - In what ways did Christ fulfill and revolutionize the Passover dinner?
- Read Mark 15:33-34.
 - What does the darkness represent?
 - What are some of the difficulties of believing in a God of judgment?
 - What is the significance and implication of Jesus' cry in verse 34?
 - What did Jesus accomplish for us? What are the implications?
- In what ways can we communicate the atonement and its necessity in our culture while living on mission?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus is our Redeemer! He paid our debt in FULL!
- Jesus is our Passover! We are safe from judgment when the blood of the LAMB covers us!

Prayer Focus:

• Pray for opportunities to boldly speak of the work of Christ to others.

Next Week's Text: Jesus our Justifier and Reconciler.