

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

## Exodus 12

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- Which of your country’s holidays call for somber reflection? Which ones call for joyful celebration? Which holiday do you find the most meaningful? (Explain your answer.)
- How do holidays play an important role in a culture?

## Eight Details that Explain the Passover

### 1<sup>st</sup> – The Time of the Passover

- **Read and discuss Exodus 12:1-3, 6.** Why do you think God was so specific on when the Passover lamb should be chosen and killed?

### 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Specific Instructions for Preparation

- **Read and discuss Exodus 12:3-4**
- How long did it take to get ready for the Passover feast? Why do you think it took so long?
- How did this time of preparation act like a time of reflection and devotion?

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Killing of a Lamb Without Blemish

- **Read and discuss Exodus 12:5-6**
- Why do you think God wanted the Israelites to pick a lamb without blemish?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote:

- It seems very likely that behind the demand for 'perfection' lies the truth that while the imperfect can die for its own sins, only the sinless can bear the sins of another. – **J.A. Motyer**
- If you pay attention to the timeline of the preparation for the Passover feast, the lamb would have spent 4 days within the house with the family before getting slaughtered. Why do you think God wanted this to happen?

#### **4<sup>th</sup> – The Blood of the Lamb was Put on the Doorposts**

- **Read and discuss Exodus 12:7**
- Why did the Lord command that the blood of the Passover lamb be sprinkled around the door? What did this symbolize? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
  - Leviticus 17:11
  - Ezekiel 18:20
  - Romans 6:23
  - Hebrews 9:22
- **Read and discuss Exodus 12:30.** What were the Israelites doing when there was a great cry in Egypt?

#### **5<sup>th</sup> – The Passover Feast Itself**

- **Read and discuss Exodus 12:8.**
- List some of the items on the Passover menu. What did they symbolize?

#### **6<sup>th</sup> – How the Passover Lamb Itself Should be Prepared and Eaten**

- **Read and discuss Exodus 12:9-10.** Why do you think that there was not to be anything left of the Passover lamb by morning?

#### **7<sup>th</sup> – The Manner in Which the Passover Should be Eaten**

- **Read and discuss Exodus 12:11**
- How did faith and deeds both play a part in the Passover? Read Hebrews 11:28 to help answer this question.

- Why were the Israelites commanded to eat the Passover feast with staff in hand? With sandals on? With a belt (which hitched their robes up and out of the way of their feet)?
- In what ways does God's judgment on Egypt foreshadow His coming judgment on the entire world? Why were the Israelites supposed to dress like they were ready to leave at any moment? How can Christians be similarly prepared to leave this world at any moment?
- Are you living with the expectancy of Christ's imminent return? How can you keep that expectation in mind this week?

### **8<sup>th</sup> – The Purpose of the Passover Lamb**

- **Read and Discuss Exodus 12:12**
- Why did God's wrath fall upon Egypt in this manner? Why did He spare the Israelites?
- What might have happened if an Egyptian family had joined the Passover feast and sprinkled their doorpost with the lamb's blood? What does this suggest about God's grace?
- What would have happened if an Israelite family had not sprinkled the doorpost with the blood of the lamb? What does this suggest about God's justice?
- **Read and Discuss Exodus 12:13.** How was the blood of the lamb both a sign for Israel and God?
- In what ways does the Passover lamb symbolize the person and work of Christ? Read 1 John 1:5-9 to help answer this question.