

Small Groups @ TBC

Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: June 17th 2018

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Saved by the Blood of the Lamb

Introduction: This talk connected the saving effect of the lamb slain by the families in Egypt at the time of the first Passover, to the life and death of Jesus.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Exodus 12:1-40 (it's a long reading but gives you the sweep of the events of that dramatic night).

Reflect :

- Why does God tell Israel to reset its calendar from this point (12:1)? What effect would that have on them when they celebrated 'New Year'?
 - In what sense do people in the group feel that their 'calendar was reset' when they came to Christ?
- Try, just for a minute, to forget everything you know about the rest of the story, and about Jesus as the 'lamb of God'. If you had been given the instructions in vs 3-11, what questions would have formed in your mind?
 - Would eating a lamb and painting its blood on your house seem an obvious way to be saved from God's activity in this tenth plague?
 - What does this tell us about 'Jesus - the Lamb of God' (1 Corinthians 5:7)?
- Unleavened bread (Exodus 17:12-20) became a symbol of purification. Leaven (yeast) became a symbol for sin (it just grows and grows!) and Passover was always preceded by a scrupulous search for and disposal of any leaven that there might be in the house.
 - What lesson might there be for Christians in this ritual associated with Passover?
- Isaiah 53 is an extended prophecy about the work of Jesus, 'led like a lamb to the slaughter'. Divide your group into four and give each sub-group a part of Isaiah 53 (53:1-3; 53:4-6; 53:7-9; 53:10-12). Ask each sub-group to reflect on their verses, and identify ways in which the prophecy about Jesus, fulfils the role of the Passover lamb in Exodus 12.

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- The Passover meal was to become a perpetual reminder to Israel (12:17). Jesus celebrated the Passover meal when he took his 'last supper' with his disciples (Mark 14:12).
 - How much of the Passover meaning is retained in the Christian act of taking Holy Communion?
 - Are there ways in which the background of Passover enrich taking bread and wine for group members?
 - When people take Holy Communion, what thoughts and images feed their minds? Does Passover add anything?
- Close with a time of prayer, thanking God for the Passover lamb, Jesus Christ.

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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