



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 3—Exodus

Lesson 5: The Story of Passover—Exodus 12

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Exodus 12 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Word. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY

God had a plan to rescue His people and gave very clear directions for the Israelites to follow. Following these instructions saved their lives and their families lives. God also allowed death to sweep through the Egyptians because of Pharaoh's refusal to let the Egyptians leave. This was the last resort it seems, as so many plagues had already been sent to Egypt and still Pharaoh ignored God.

Why do you think God made the directions for the Passover and meal so specific?

- These instructions prepared them for their exodus in that they were well nourished from a large meal, the houses were cleaned out from removing all yeast products, and their food was ready for travel.

Why do you think God gave Pharaoh so many chances?

- "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).
- Pharaoh finally didn't just let the Israelites leave, but commanded them to go.

What do you think is the significance of each part of the Passover?

- The main symbols of the Passover were the lamb and the lamb's blood. It was the sacrifice that was the basis for sparking God's people.
- Salvation comes from the hand of God and the sacrifice of something unblemished.

OUR STORY

Sometimes what God asks of us may seem tedious, but it is never unnecessary. We can look back and see all the people who had a relationship with Him that He used to lead us to where we are today. There are even times where the Lord creates a context where obedience is necessary for our own survival. In all things, the Lord maintains control and guides us toward our future with Him by interacting with us in the present.

When has God prepared you ahead of time for a situation?

When have you had the right things at the right time to help another person?

- God cares about the details and will create character in us today that we will need to exercise tomorrow.
- God gave the Israelites very specific instructions for the Passover to ensure their dependence on him and protection.

OTHERS' STORY

To share in the Passover, one had to make themselves part of the people of Israel. What started out for one group of people is now blessing others through communion in Christ.

When you take part in something like Communion or a Passover service, do you tend to think of it as something for you and God or something you're taking part in with others and God?

- Faith traditions and denominations hold to different values regarding who can take part in certain sacraments. While God did say Passover was for the Jews, the Bible doesn't specifically condemn the practice of a non-believer using Communion as a way for someone to draw near to God.

How have you seen God work through others to provide for His people?

- When you hold back from God, you hold back unleashing a blessing.
- "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong" (1 Corinthians 1:27).

When has God worked through you to help another person?

- Don't look for another person to "complete you." Become a complete person in Christ and let another complete person "complement" you.

THE WORLD'S STORY

It's perhaps too easy to say that Pharaoh was an evil leader. His decisions and refusal to follow God impacted all of the Egyptians through the plagues they endured and the deaths of their sons. What we may not so quickly realize is that his dominant attitude was "MINE!" which is something we see all throughout the world. In comparison, consider the innocence of Jesus and the true sacrifice He made for us. The more we realize His humility, the more we are inspired to share that with the world. Christ is our Passover, and He has saved us so we can spread the word.

How has your life been impacted by a self-centered attitude you've experienced from others or the world as a whole?

- Greed leads to problems, but consider what leads to greed: The desire to live a comfortable life or provide for one's family causes you to claw for more so you could feel just "a little bit more" secure.
- We reason, "If I am happy now with what I have, then logically I should be happier with more of it." Unfortunately it doesn't work that way. You can only carry so much before you fall, losing everything.

In what ways have others who didn't respect God affected you?

- Without a fear of the Lord, we listen to our desire to make our happiness the most important thing in the universe.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer)

*Lord, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against me!
Many are saying of me,
“God will not deliver him.”*

*But you, Lord, are a shield around me,
my glory, the One who lifts my head high.
I call out to the Lord,
and he answers me from his holy mountain.*

*I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.
I will not fear though tens of thousands
assail me on every side.*

*Arise, Lord!
Deliver me, my God!
Strike all my enemies on the jaw;
break the teeth of the wicked.*

*From the Lord comes deliverance.
May your blessing be on your people.*

(Psalm 3)

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

We take Communion to remember Christ’s work on the cross. However, each day we have the opportunity to draw near to the Lord and thank Him. We can also freely share the gift of Him with the world around us. Consider these steps this week:

- Pray for God to put names of people who don’t know Jesus on your heart.
- Write those names down, and put them somewhere visible.
- Make an effort to pray for them specifically, by name.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare their hearts for when you’ll talk with them.
- Pray for the opportunity and the courage to share your relationship with God with them, including the good news of the gospel and the love that Jesus displayed by being the Passover Lamb.

Life often gets busy and hectic, so take time to prepare and ask God for opportunities to witness. Place a priority in your life that is greater than any other. Let’s see what God does with these preparations in our lives!

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God’s Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

Exodus 13

Philippians 2

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. In the context of Exodus 12, consider the following questions:

How can I pray for my leaders?

How can I be a godly influence in the life of my leaders?

Consider other passages you might know related to Exodus 12 and read them this week, journaling as you go.