



Small Group Study Guide for February 21, 2021

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: For our Sunday morning preaching series during Lent, we will be looking at various aspects of the Lord's Supper and how it connects us to Jesus' sufferings and death for the forgiveness of our sins. This week we are looking at the Passover Lamb, the background to Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper, and how this Old Testament passage points to Christ, the Lamb of God.

Getting Started:

1. Share if you give up anything for Lent or if you have added anything (worship, devotions, etc.)
2. Are there any special songs, Scriptures, or practices during Lent that especially help you to focus on Jesus' sacrifice of love for us?

In the Word: Exodus 12:1-11

3. Look through the previous chapters of Exodus and discuss the context for this passage. Make some notes and discuss what has happened up until this point, and what takes place after it.
4. This event was so big, that the Israelites would change their whole calendar from here on out – "this month is to be for you the first month of your year..." That's a big deal! A new life was beginning for the people of God. God told the people to select a lamb on the tenth day. Make a list of the specific qualifications for the lamb given in verses 4-5.
5. How might some of the qualifications for the lamb that you listed above point to Jesus, the Lamb of God, 1,500 years later?
6. They had to do the strangest thing with the lamb's blood. They had to mark the sides and tops of their doorframes with it. God had never told anyone to do that before. Why do you think God gave them this instruction? What might the meaning, significance or purpose of it be?
7. Look at the aspects of the meal itself in verses 8-11. Make a list and discuss the key points, and what their purpose might be.

Putting it Together

8. Jesus took a 1,500 year old ceremony (the Passover) and He changed it when He was with His disciples on the night He was betrayed, the night before His crucifixion. That's shocking! But looking more closely at the Passover meal and ceremony, what aspects of the Passover meal now point to what Jesus brings us in the Lord's Supper, and what He accomplished for us on the cross?

9. In the instance of the Passover, the Lamb who was slain became a meal. In most of the other temple sacrifices in the Old Testament, the lamb, bulls, goats, and animals that were sacrificed also became a meal, where people celebrated God's forgiveness. Isn't it interesting that Jesus, the Lamb of God, found a way to become a meal for us, without us having to become cannibals!? Jesus' body and blood are attached to the bread and wine so that we might eat and drink His life-giving power. What words of Jesus in **Matthew 26:26-29** speak to the presence of Jesus' body and blood in Holy Communion, and why does it take faith to believe Jesus' words?

10. The Passover was the greatest salvation event of the Old Testament. And yet it was pointing to an even greater salvation event – one for the whole world – when Jesus the Lamb of God would deliver us from our enemies of sin, death, and the devil. Jesus said when He instituted the Lord's Supper – “do this in remembrance of me.” What do you remember and what do you try to think about when you take the Lord's Supper?

11. The Lord's Supper is a wonderful mystery, and a precious gift to the Church. We often have a lot of questions about it, and there are many rich and deep aspects of this sacred meal. What questions do you have about the Lord's Supper that we might be able to address in the coming weeks? (feel free to email pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org with any questions your group cannot answer).

Prayer: Thank God from delivering us from slavery and bondage to sin, death and the devil, and for leading us out of captivity by providing Jesus, the Lamb of God, whose blood set us free. Ask God to help us have a right understanding of the Lord's Supper as we participate in the victory meal. Pray that God would help our congregation come together at the Lord's altar to “do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Next Week: We continue looking at different aspects of Holy Communion as we look at the grace that God offers to us as we come to the table, repentant and humble, to receive forgiveness and mercy. Opportunities for Communion at Our Savior include 1) in person worship on 1st and 3rd Sundays, 2) home communion delivered by our staff (contact@oursaviorlansing.org or call 882-8665 to set up an appointment, or 3) Drive In Worship with Communion on April 18.

Note: We are starting a [blog](#) on the Our Savior Website that will have articles about the Lord's Supper written by Pastor Wangelin and Vicar Heinze starting Sunday, February 21. Be sure to check them out!