

I. Read Luke 22:7-13

- A. In the passage, Jesus prepares to celebrate Passover with His disciples. Read Exodus 12:1-28 and discuss the particulars of the first Passover. Consider the following questions in your discussion:
1. What were the circumstances of Israel that brought about the first Passover?
The people of Israel were enslaved to Egypt. Moses served as God's chosen instrument and prophet to lead them to freedom. Nine plagues had already been pronounced upon Egypt to compel them to free Israel. The Passover was instituted as both a deliverance from the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn, and as a description of the means of that deliverance.
 2. Read Exodus 11:4-7 and explain the extent of the devastation that would result from the tenth plague.
The firstborn of every household in Egypt would die, from the lowliest to the greatest (even the prince and heir apparent to the Pharaoh's throne). This also included the Egyptians' livestock.
 3. How was the Passover to begin? (See Exodus 12:6 and Deuteronomy 16:6.)
With the slaughter of a lamb without blemish at sunset.
 4. What was to be done with the blood of the sacrifice?
It was to be put on the two doorposts (sides) and the lintel (top) of the door in the homes in which Passover was observed.
 5. Why was the bread to be unleavened (verse 8)?
It was to be prepared *in haste*, since there would be no time for the dough to rise, as is common in bread making.
 6. What did the bitter herbs represent?
The bitterness of the suffering caused by Israel's slavery to Egypt.
 7. Why do you think the Israelites were instructed thusly: to have "a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand" (v11)?
To signify their readiness to receive and act upon their sure deliverance.
 8. According to verse 13, what would cause the households to be spared from the judgment of God?
"... when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you ..."
 9. Was this to be a *one-time* event for the Israelites (verse 14)?
No, it was to be observed each year, perpetually or until it was fulfilled in Christ, the Messiah.
- B. What special significance do you suppose the celebration of the Passover had for Jesus on this particular occasion?
Jesus was *the* perfect (without blemish) Passover lamb. The Passover celebration, along with all other ordinances and rituals of the Old Testament's ceremonial law, pointed to and was fulfilled in Jesus. His blood would be shed to win deliverance for His people, or the *true* Israel.

- C. What New Testament sacrament did Jesus institute at this time to commemorate and signify His fulfillment of the Passover celebration?

The Lord's Supper (Luke 22:14-20).

- D. Why do you suppose Jesus' instructions to Peter and John about the location of their Passover celebration was so cryptic? ("... a man will meet you carrying a pitcher"—NAS)

Perhaps He wanted to keep the place secret until the moment the Passover would be celebrated, knowing Judas already had it in his heart to betray him.

Note: The Reformed Study Bible comments regarding the significance of a man "carrying a pitcher that "a man carrying a pitcher would stand out, because pitchers were used by women, and men carried water in skins."

- E. Consider the application of the truths gleaned from the Exodus 12 passage to your own salvation. Answer the following questions:

1. What was the condition of the pre-Passover Israelites and in what way does this reflect the condition of all men apart from Christ?

They were in bondage to the Egyptians; likewise, unregenerate man is in bondage to sin. (Read Acts 8:23; Romans 7:14; Galatians 4:3.)

2. What was necessary for deliverance from the consequences of the tenth plague (or God's judgment)?

The blood had to be applied to the doorposts and lintel.

3. How does faith in Christ correspond to the Passover deliverance? (See Romans 3:23-26.)

Those who have the blood of Christ applied by faith benefit from the *propitiation* (turning away) of God's judgment and wrath (verse 25). The New American Standard Version explains, "... in the forbearance of God He *passed over* the sins ..."

4. Once the blood had been applied to the Israelites' homes, did their doubting or anxiety affect their deliverance in any way?

No, because the basis of their deliverance was *the blood applied*, not their emotional stability. Likewise, the one who has trusted in Christ may be assured of deliverance because of God's promise to *pass over* them on the day of judgment.

- F. Describe how we can truly make Christ *our Passover* today, thus having the assurance that we have been spared from God's wrath.

1. **You must believe that you are in danger of suffering God's wrath and judgment — in other words, that you are a sinner and in need of God's forgiveness and pardon (Romans 3:23; 6:23).**

2. **You must acknowledge your total dependence on Christ for salvation — in other words, that you are absolutely helpless to save yourself (Romans 5:8).**

3. **You must believe that Christ truly died for your sins, was buried, and truly rose again in order that you might be just before our holy God. You must believe this personally and be willing to confess Christ publicly (Romans 10:9, 10).**

4. **You must call on the name of Christ and personally trust (receive) Him! (Romans 10:13; John 1:12)**