

We are going to spend three weeks in Exodus 12. This first week we are considering the Passover Congregation that is the people of God. Here the Israelites are formed, for the first time, as a nation. Next week we will consider the Judgment of Passover and then the Passover Future.

In the *Passover Congregation* that God calls together we see two of the most fundamental things about what it means to be a Christian and part of the people of God: we are "*people of the Lamb.*"

Day #1

- 1) Read the whole of Exodus 12. Try to keep in mind all that you know about what the children of Israel have suffered, experienced, and know thus far. We will be in this passage for 3 whole weeks, so don't worry about getting everything today.
- 2) Re-read v3-4 & 43-49. Why are these considerations made and guidelines given?
- 3) How were you welcomed into the family of God? Take some time to remember and to thank God for this. Enter into worship
- 4) What does it look like for you to welcome & invite others to become part of the people of God? Take some time to pray about this.

Day #2

- 1) Read Exodus 12. As you read, highlight or underline all the times, places, and ways the people of God have to act together.
- 2) Why is God requiring that they do all these things together? (What would be lost if they could act independently?)
- 3) Consider what this must have been like to be part of this group movement and action? What about it would have moved/touched you in a positive way? Is there anything about it that would have caused you to chafe?
- 4) Reflect on where you are in your heart and actions with regard to the church today? Consider all the categories (personal friends, "neighbors," etc). Reflect on this in light of Exodus 12 and talk to God about it.
- 5) Close by considering Ephesians 4 as a worship exercise. Read through the passage and, where the text mentions what God has done, praise him. Where it calls us to be transformed, thank God for what he wants to do in your heart and ask him to do it.

Day #3

- 1) Read Exodus 12. Knowing that the people of God are on the verge of a massive relocation to a new place to live, consider what is repeatedly central to their last days in Egypt.
- 2) Highlight or underline every time the lamb or Passover meal is mentioned.
- 3) Given all the stress, questions, uncertainty, etc that the people of God must have known and felt (Where are we going? How are we going to get there? What will we do when we get there? Etc.,) reflect on what God is having them do and focus on.
- 4) God's instructions and the people's last days and moments in Egypt are about worship. They are being formed into a people and they are to become "the people of the lamb." This is their central and primary activity.

- 5) What is first in your heart, desires, expectations, etc when you come before God or consider what it means to be part of the church? Where does worship factor into that?
- 6) Take some time to enter into Psalm 96 as worship.

Day # 4

- 1) Read through Exodus 12 and try to enter into the experience of what this must have been like
- 2) For the rest of today we are simply going to worship God through Psalm 46
- 3) Read the Psalm through one time
- 4) Start in verse 1 and enter into the truth of these words. Remember God is these things even if we don't take advantage of them. So praise and worship him first (rather than going directly to confession). Go slow. Repeat the words and phrases. Apply it also to your own heart, i.e., where it says "our" replace it with "my."

Day #5

- 1) Read Exodus 12 again and enjoy the parts of it which have spoken to you this week.
- 2) For the rest of today we are simply going to worship God through Psalm 135.
- 3) Read through the Psalm one time.
- 4) Notice the parallel between the beginning (v1-3) and the end (v19-21). This is what God wants most.
- 5) Start in verse 1 and enter into the truth of these words. Remember God is these things even if we don't take advantage of them. So praise and worship him first (rather than going directly to confession). Go slow. Repeat the words and phrases. Apply it also to your own heart, i.e., where it says "our" replace it with "my."