

The Point: Even in His righteous judgment, God offers salvation through the sacrifice of a substitute.

God Warns of Judgment

The first nine plagues had wreaked havoc on the Egyptians, and God had manifested His glory in unleashing judgment upon the empire that stood against Him and His people. One final plague remained—one that would be worse than all the others. And through Moses, God chose to warn Pharaoh of the judgment to come.

- **List some techniques your parents used when you were younger (or still use) to warn you that you were about to get into trouble? (for example: count to three; call you by your middle name; etc.) What did it take for your parents to get your attention?**
- **What warnings might we receive from God today when we refuse to listen to His instruction? What does it take for God to get your attention?**

God offers protection through a sacrifice

In Exodus 12:6-7 we see what was to happen to this unblemished lamb. It was to be killed at twilight. The slain lamb would be a vivid reminder to everyone that all deserve judgment. (See Rom. 3:23.) Consequently, a blameless life had to be sacrificed in the place of the guilty people who needed salvation. The blood of the lamb was to be applied to their doorposts (v. 7). The obedience of placing the blood on their doorposts showed that they believed God would keep His word and pass over, sparing that house from judgment. So, Israel escaped judgment through this sacrifice, and salvation was accomplished by faith in the work of the substitute. The blood on their doors served as a sign that judgment had already fallen at that house. Just as the plagues were a sign to Egypt of God's justice and judgment, now the Passover was a sign of God's mercy to Israel.

Thus, we see God continue to keep the promise of Genesis 3:15 and the Abrahamic covenant. In the midst of looming judgment, God provided. He protected Israel from slavery and death for future salvation. In accomplishing this, He said, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt” (v. 13). God accepted the blood of the sacrifice and passed over their sin.

Essential Doctrines

Sin and Death: *The ultimate consequence for sin is death—physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death (Rom. 6:23). God was clear to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden that if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would surely die (Gen. 2:17). The type of death that would result from the fall in the garden of Eden wasn't only physical death, but spiritual death—separation from God.*

Leader Note: Because some content from the Personal Study Guide will not be available on the One Sheet, make sure to adapt the session based on how you use the material with your group.

YOUR STORY

- ▶ **Question** Why was it important for the sacrificial lamb to be spotless? What did being spotless signify?
- ▶ **The blood on the door** was a public statement for all to see. How does this influence the way we think of our Christian faith? What characteristics should distinguish your life from the lives of others?
- ▶ **What does the Passover event communicate about our sin?**
- ▶ **How has this session challenged you when thinking about God's judgment and grace?**

YOUR MISSION

Head

This story causes us to remember the severity and mercy of God. When we think about it, we all will have to admit that we deserve this kind of judgment. We are all like Pharaoh. Some think they will never be judged. They think that they can spend their life piling up pyramids full of stuff, chasing fame, and refusing to bow down to the true God. Sadly, they will end up much like Pharaoh unless they look to God alone for mercy.

- ▶ **Why do you think God gave Pharaoh advance notice of the coming plague instead of simply unleashing His wrath? What "advance notice" has God given humanity regarding His judgment?**
- ▶ **How should the severity of God's judgment and the magnitude of His mercy affect the way we live?**

Heart

In Exodus 12:27b-28, notice the people's reaction to the Passover instructions: worship and obedience. They "bowed down and worshiped. Then the Israelites went and did this; they did just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron." This theme of worship and obedience runs right through Exodus. By remembering who God is and what He has done, they give God praise and obedience.

- ▶ **What is the connection between our worship of the Lamb and our witness to the gospel?**
- ▶ **Share of a time when you responded in obedience as a result of God's goodness in your life.**

Hands

God calls us to warn others of His coming judgment and to offer the good news of salvation through Jesus, the substitute Lamb.

- ▶ **Do you find it difficult to talk about coming judgment? If so, why?**
- ▶ **What difference does it make in talking about judgment knowing that Jesus bears the wrath of judgment in our place through faith in Him?**