



The mark of the firstborn's sacrifice still lives with the people of God. The price paid gives new value to those in that position. Our value is determined by God. Jesus the First-born is our Passover lamb who is our sacrifice, consecrating us, as well as the one who gives us value anew.

## Opening Question:

Talk about what sacrifice means to you, personally. What is a significant sacrifice you've had to make?

**Read:** Exodus 13:1-16

This passage contains some of the Bible's most well-known and theologically significant concepts, but some are so familiar they have become difficult to really absorb the impact. Read the passage aloud as if you were hearing it for the first time. What captures your attention? Does anything shock you? Do any new questions arise?

## Understanding the Story:

Why is there such an emphasis on first-borns here? Birth order aside, what do first-borns signify, and why would they be important to God?

Yeast is used in the Bible as an illustration for both good and bad things. (Jesus warned against the "yeast" of the Pharisees, for example, but also said that the Kingdom of God was like a woman working yeast through dough.) What qualities of yeast make it so apt as a metaphor? Why, in verses 3-8, is there such a focus on yeast?

What effect do you think remembering their time of slavery might have on the Israelites?

## Living the Story:

First-born livestock, first-born sons, and the first fruits of harvest were offered to God because they had extreme significance at the time, both financially and symbolically. We don't live in an agrarian, patriarchal society today, so what are the first-born equivalents of our society? How can we offer them to God?

How important is commemorating God's work in your life? Can focusing on what God has already done affect our future behavior?

## Pray:

Have each group member write down a prayer request/need and trade them with another member of the group. Pray for that person throughout the week.