

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Luke 22:14-20

LEADER'S STUDY

Jesus Fulfilled the Old Covenant and Established the New

Luke 22:14-20

What is happening?

Jesus is celebrating the Passover meal with his disciples just hours before his arrest. As far as the disciples know, they're simply keeping the Passover according to the tradition established by Moses more than 1500 years before. They didn't understand that the Passover, more than commemorating Israel's deliverance from Egypt, looked forward to the events that would begin to unfold that very night: the death of their rabbi, Jesus of Nazareth, the ultimate Passover Lamb. Jesus explains that evening, to his disciples then and for all who would follow him ever after, what the elements of the familiar feast actually represented: his sinless, "unleavened" body (leavening represented sin) soon to be broken, and his blood soon to be shed.

Where is the gospel?

Jesus didn't go to Jerusalem that week to keep the Passover, but to *become* the Passover. The ancient annual feast commemorated the time when God, in His mercy, provided for the sacrifice of an unblemished lamb to serve as a substitute for the firstborn of every household (you can read about that in Exodus 12). If the blood of the lamb was applied to the doorpost of a house, the angel of death would pass over that household and not kill the firstborn. In fulfillment of that picture, Jesus later provided the perfect sacrifice for *all* mankind's sin by taking our guilt upon himself and suffering God's wrath for it on our behalf (1 John 2:2). He did this once for all time; no additional sacrifice will ever be required of anyone. He did it in reality, not in analogy. His sacrifice is not a mere stopgap, like the Jewish religious rituals were, but it permanently saves us from God's wrath. He did it for his own people, and he did it for his enemies (Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5, 11-18). To receive the redemption, we needn't put the blood of his sacrifice on our doorframes, but put our trust in his sacrifice and allow his grace to cover us. It is a free gift, purchased for us at an unfathomable price.

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: Why did the Jews continually offer sacrifices to God? Did the sacrifices themselves please God, or did He merely want the people to come to Him in the way He prescribed? When God shows me a better way than what I've been following, do I stick with the security of habit and tradition, or do I step away from the old and follow Him into the new? Did Jesus' death reflect back on the Passover, or did the annual Passover tradition point ahead to Jesus' once-and-for-all work of redemption? How is God calling me to think and to live differently? How does this change my perspective today? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scriptures: Exodus 12; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; John 1:29; Romans 8:33-39; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Hebrews 9:11-28. What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Luke 22:14-20
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation. Read it again in the NLT or other thought-for-thought version to get a different perspective.

Consider the historical context:

1- Who was Jesus speaking to? (his disciples)

2- What was the occasion being observed? (the Passover)

3- What did the Passover celebrate? (God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt)

4- How might the disciples have understood what they were hearing?

4- For whom was this account written, and for what purpose? (Lk. 1:1-5)

What does all this have to do with Gentile Christians in 21st Century America?

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

Read about the first Passover in Exodus 12. How does that relate to what we read here in Luke 22?

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What might Luke have meant in v. 14 when he begins this passage with the phrase, "when the hour came"?

What seems to be the main point of these verses?

What did Jesus mean when he said he would not eat the Passover meal again until after it was fulfilled in the kingdom of God?

One key word in this passage is "covenant." In the Bible, a covenant refers to two parties being bound together by an agreement, which was often sealed with blood.

What did he mean that his blood was the new covenant?

What was the old covenant? (Read Exodus 19:1-8; 24:3-8.)

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage? What does it say about His justice? His mercy?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How does our taking Communion in church today relate to the Passover?

Is there any supernatural power in the Communion bread and the wine?

Compare the old covenant with the new. How is the new covenant better?

How is God calling you to think or act differently, based on this passage?

or

What is your "I will" statement?

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?

(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth, and it blesses the one who hears it.

Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?