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Discussion Questions

Exodus 11 - 13

October 31, 2004

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Exodus 11-13 - Discussion Questions

1. Announcements

- a. **The Great Thanksgiving Outreach 2004!** - The Rock Small Groups Ministry has adopted the San Diego Rescue Mission this Thanksgiving Season. To support them, we are recruiting 350 people to assist in various capacities:

Team 1 - Thanksgiving Banquet

The Thanksgiving Banquet is designed to feed 1000 homeless people between the hours of 2:00PM and 5:00PM. You need to arrive at 1:00 for station assignment.

Here is the staffing need for this team:

<u>Title of Position</u>	<u>Volunteers Needed</u>
Food Servers	50
Usher/ Greeters	15
Kitchen Staff	25
Clothing Sorters	5
Food sorters	5
Barbers/ Hair Stylists	5 10
Manicurists/ Pedicurists	5-10

Team 2 - Special Operations Groups

The Special Operations Groups will go to pre-defined locations thorough the city. We will send people out in groups of three, with approximately 5 meals and a list of resources to assist with sharing the Gospel with the homeless. There will be a mandatory orientation for the Special Operations Team at 12PM at the Rescue Mission on Nov. 20, before the Banquet begins.

Here is the staffing need for this team:

<u>Title of Position</u>	<u>Volunteers Needed</u>
Special Operations Groups	150

Donations - Donations will be accepted on the day of the event at the San Diego Rescue Mission.

Turkey vouchers, backpacks, towels, diapers, t-shirts, socks, phone cards, bus tokens

- b. **Community Leaders/ Coaches** - Please take time to contact the people/groups you are shepherding this week. It is critical that we make connections, and find out how we can minister and provide assistance. If you are unsure of who you are coaching, or who your coach is, you can e-mail Melissa at melissak@therocksandiego.org, or Carolyn at carolyny@therocksandiego.org
- c. **The Rock University - Volunteers/Interns Needed:** For more information, please contact [Pastor Kyle Osland](#) at the church office.



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- d. **Sisters in Christ:** Mondays from 6:30-8:30 PM, **November 1-December 6**. All women are welcome. A special time for the women of the Rock to worship, pray, study God's Word, share testimonies, and enjoy fellowship. Childcare provided. 6866 Linda Vista Rd. For details, contact Karen at jkarenstevens@att.net.
- e. **Children's Ministry - We Need Volunteers:** The Children's Ministry is looking for passionate and dedicated people to teach the Word of God to children of the Rock. For more information, contact Amy Evangelista (amy@therocksandiego.org) at the church office.
- f. **Prison Ministry:** Are you interested in ministering to the incarcerated? Attend a monthly orientation for Donovan State Prison on **November 7, or December 6**. For details, contact Roger Ziegler at 619.475.7343 or 619.813.6188.
- g. **Parking Ministry:** We need parking volunteers who are willing to make a 3-month commitment to a particular service as we transition to the Ruffin Road facility. How about YOU? Visit the Rock U table or contact Debbie Westfall at the church office.

2. Memory Verse

Exodus 13:14 - "In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the hand of slavery.'" (NIV)

3. Discussion Questions

- 1) Read **Exodus 11:1-10**
 - a) After **Exodus 10:28**, did Moses ever talk to Pharaoh again?
 - b) In **Exodus 11:2-3**, why did God have them ask for articles of gold and silver? (**Ex 25**)
 - 1) What was the gold NOT to be used for? (**Ex 32**)
 - c) Why should the firstborn die (**Ex 11:4-5**)?
 - 1) What was so substantial about the firstborn? (**Gen 49:3, Ex 6:14, Dt 21:17**)
 - 2) Discuss the following facts, and how they relate the God killing the firstborn in Egypt.
 - a) The firstborn carried on the name of the family.
 - b) The firstborn had a double portion of the inheritance.
 - c) The firstborn were honored above the other children.
 - 3) Read **Colossians 1:15** - Who was the firstborn over all creation?
- 2) Let's compare the original Passover lamb with the God's Passover Lamb who came to take away the sin of the world.
 - a) **The Passover Lamb must be a choice male lamb in the prime of his life.** "Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats" (Exodus 12:5). Jesus Christ began His ministry in the prime of life, around 30 years of age. We are told of the beginning of His ministry that "when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, 'You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.'" When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was



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about thirty years of age" (Luke 3:21-23a). Here is a lamb who is in the prime of His life and He is God's choice.

- b) **The Passover Lamb had to be without blemish.** The Passover Lamb must be perfect without any blemish or fault of any kind (Ex. 12:5). The apostle Peter knew the perfect Lamb in life and he wrote, "knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ" (I Peter 1:18-19). The word for "unblemished," "without blemish" is used of a sacrifice without spot or blemish and morally of a person who is without blemish, faultless, unblameable. Cf. Matthew 27:4, 19, 24; John 18:38; Luke 23:41; Mark 15:39.
- c) **The Passover Lamb must be kept under scrutiny.** "You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight" (Ex. 12:6). Luke 11:53-54 tells us the scribes and Pharisees grew very hostile toward Jesus and were "plotting against Him, to catch Him in something He might say." Daily the Jewish leaders scrutinized Jesus' teaching in the Temple and local synagogues. What can we say about Jesus after all that intense observation for three years? He "who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (I Peter 2:22-24; cf. Isaiah 5:9). Jesus "committed no sin," either before or during His suffering (cf. 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 1 John 3:5). He was completely innocent in both deed and word because "no deceit was found in His mouth."
- d) **It was necessary for the Passover lamb to be slain.** "The whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight" (12:6). The lambs were slain between 3 and 5 PM of the afternoon before the Passover which began when the first ray of starlight could be seen in the sky. Jesus' scourging and death accomplished spiritual "healing" or salvation of every individual who trusts Him as his Savior. "And according to the Law, *one may* almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22). Cf. Mark 15:6-15; John 1:29, 36; 12:24. "Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed" (I Corinthians 5:7b). The death of Jesus Christ is the propitiation for our sins. The sacrifice of Himself turns away the wrath of God. It is God who is propitiated by His own provision made in the vicarious, substitutionary, expiatory sacrifice of Christ. Man sinned. Christ annuls the power of sin to separate God and man. Our Passover not only covers our sins, but He turns back the wrath of God which we deserve and God can look upon with His favor. Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for our sins. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). The word "redeemed" means "to set free by the payment of a ransom." It is a ransom for life as of a slave, (Matt. 20:28), and therefore, to set free by payment of ransom. The ransom is the blood of Jesus. Kenneth Wuest observed, "The blood of Christ is costly, essentially and intrinsically precious because it is God's blood (Acts 20:28), for Deity became incarnate in humanity." More literally, we are redeemed "with costly blood, highly honored, blood as of a lamb that is without blemish and spotless, the blood of Christ." It was by the blood of Christ that we are redeemed from sin. It



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is an ugly picture of blood spilt because sin is ugly. We are totally depraved and in the need of God's perfect sacrifice for sin. "Redemption" is a purchasing from the marketplace of sin with the priceless blood of a perfect lamb. Cf. Hebrews 10:1-7, 10-14, 19-22, 29; 1 John 1:7; Luke 22:19-22.

- e) **The bones of the Passover Lamb must not be broken.** "It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside of the house, nor are you to break any bone of it" (Ex. 12:46). Of Jesus it is written, "but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "Not a bone of Him shall be broken." (John 19:33-36) Cf. Psalm 34:20 "He keeps all His bones; not one of them is broken."
- f) **The blood of the Passover Lamb had to be applied in the correct manner.** "Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it" (Ex. 12:7). We have to appropriate the death of Jesus for our sins by faith. John 3:36 says, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). Cf. Romans 3:24-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13-14; Hebrews 11:28.
- g) **The meat of the Passover Lamb must be eaten in the home.** "They shall eat the flesh that *same* night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, *both* its head and its legs along with its entrails. And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire. Now you shall eat it in this manner: *with* your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the Lord's Passover" (Ex. 12:8-11; cf. 1 Corinthians 5:7-8). Not only did God provide for their salvation from the death angel, but He also provided nourishment for their travel. Jesus not only saves us from sin, but He also provides daily bread for our spiritual lives. We must come to Him for our nourishment every day. What we ate for spiritual food yesterday will not carry over for today or tomorrow. It is a daily feasting on Christ. Change the metaphor and the need for daily sustenance becomes perfectly clear. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).
- h) **The Passover Lamb of God provides perfect protection from judgment of God.** "For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt" (Ex. 12:12-13). The apostle John recognized this great truth when He wrote that Christ "Himself is the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 2:2). "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). Romans 3:25 speaks of Christ "whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith." Christ is the means whereby our sin is covered and remitted. Properly propitiation is "the



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turning away of wrath by an offering" (Leon Morris). God's wrath is His settled, controlled, holy antagonism against all sin. Propitiation is the appeasement of the wrath of God by the love of God through the gift of God's own sacrifice. Christ is the Priest and the Sacrifice for our sin (Romans 3:25). The initiative is taken by God Himself in sheer unmerited love. He turns His own wrath away by His own blood. God's justice has now been satisfied. Our sin debt has been paid. His holiness is satisfied and God's wrath is turned away. John the Baptizer saw Jesus and he declared, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, 36). "The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (I John 1:7). "By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). "He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified" (Heb. 10:12-14). Cf. Heb. 9:27.

- i) **The Passover meal was a memorial supper.** It was to be celebrated every year as a remembrance of what Yahweh had done in delivering Israel out of Egypt (Ex. 12:42). Every year, every family would concentrate on this meal and the meaning of each of the elements of the meal. At least once a year every family in Israel knew what God did at the Passover in Egypt. Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples (Matthew 26:26-32; I Corinthians 11:23-34). That night of the last Passover the transition was made to the memorial supper of the Lamb of God who took away our sins. Properly officiated the ordinance of the Lord's Supper is a reminder of what Jesus accomplished on our behalf. It is a message of the salvation of the family of God. "Do this in memory of Me."
 - j) **The Passover Lamb's blood must not be trampled on.** "For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you" (Ex. 12:23; cf. V. 7). The blood of the lamb is not to be put on the threshold. It is not to be trampled upon. Do not trample on the blood of the Lamb of God. How tragic when men demean the blood of God. The beloved Greek scholar A. T. Robertson writing on I John 1:7 enunciated: "Walking in the light with God makes possible fellowship with one another and is made possible also by the blood of Jesus (real blood and no mere phantom, atoning blood of the sinless Son of God for our sins). John is not ashamed to use this word. It is not the mere 'example' of Jesus that 'cleanses' us from sin. It does cleanse the conscience and life and nothing else does (Heb. 9:13; Tit. 2:14). See in verse 9 both forgiveness and cleansing. Cf. I John 3:3" (*Word Pictures in the New Testament*).
- 3) Discuss the following statement, "Jesus is the lamb that was slain. Jesus died on the cross, and rose again, but it does not apply to you, unless you apply the blood to your life."
- a) How do you apply the blood to your life?
 - b) Do you see any similarities between the locations of the placement of the blood on the door posts, to the placement of Jesus hands and head on the cross?

