

“A Foretaste of Glory Divine”

Message Summary

God commanded His people to remember their redemption from the clutches of the Pharaoh in Egypt by celebrating the Passover meal. This meal reminded God’s people of His protection over their lives during the 10th Plague, the death of the firstborn in Egypt. If God’s people would paint the blood of a perfect lamb over the doorposts and lintel of their homes, then when the death angel saw the blood, he would pass over their home and spare the firstborn son.

Jesus celebrated this meal every year of His life. In the final days before His capture and ultimately his death, he desired with great passion to celebrate this meal with His disciples one last time. This time, however, Jesus would institute a new remembrance for His disciples. Rather than looking back to the Passover lamb in Egypt, Jesus identified Himself as the better Passover Lamb. Just as Israel was in bondage to the Pharaoh in Egypt, Jesus knew we are in bondage to sin. He knew that God was going to judge sin. But He also knew that God promised to pass over the sins of those who have Jesus’ blood painted over their lives.

For the Jew, apostasy was associated with forgetting. So in this Last Supper Jesus wanted His disciples to know and remember His sacrifice for them. No matter what they may have forgotten in the previous three years, His desire was for them to never forget His sacrifice for their sin. But Jesus also was reminding them of what the future for His disciples would hold. Those who have trusted in the finished work of Jesus will one day sit with Him at a bigger and better feast, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. What a day that will be for all those who have trusted in Jesus!

So every time you celebrate the Lord’s Supper you should celebrate it from three perspectives. First, look back to Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for your sin. Second, look forward to the day you will celebrate with Him in heaven. And finally, look to the present power of the Gospel in your life today.

Use this guide as a tool to help you practice biblical hospitality so that you might lead your group into spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is only a guide that will help you to help others discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word. Your role is to facilitate this encounter with God, His Body, and His Word. Use this guide as a flexible teaching tool rather than a rigid group task list.

Family Gathering

Think of your small group meeting as a “Family Gathering.” Since your group is made up primarily of Christians, then you are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, when you gather, you are gathering as a family. So, practicing biblical hospitality should involve gathering as a family; all the while welcoming the outsider (stranger, unbeliever) and giving them a place to Be, Become, and Do so that they might be changed by the power of the Gospel. So when you have your family gathering this week, consider doing the following:

- **Family Meal** – Families eat together. So, just as you eat with your natural family, spend time eating together as a spiritual family. Share a meal together that requires a recipe and not a microwave. Consider having the host family prepare the main dish and everyone else bring a side. If you don’t know how to cook, find someone in the group that does and get together early and learn how to make a dish. If you have never hosted a gathering in your home, ask someone from the group to arrive early and help you get prepared. Everyone participate in cleaning up; some of the greatest conversations can happen during this time. A good suggestion might be for the men to clean up and give the ladies an opportunity to talk.
- **Family Discussion** – Families talk. So, just as you have discussions with your natural family, spend time talking as a spiritual family. You may need to digress for a little while. You may need to help someone through a problem. You may need to give counsel. You may need to encourage or even correct. During this discussion reflect on Sunday’s message by examining the discussion questions below. Think of this as a “low barrier” bible study; one everyone can enter into regardless of their spiritual maturity.
- **Family Prayer** – Families pray together. Pray for specific needs. Pray for the Weekly Prayer Focus. Don’t rush this time. Intercede for one another and rejoice in answered prayer.

Family Outing

Families do things together. They spend time recreating, shopping, going out to dinner, etc. Spend some time with all or part of your group this week outside of your regular meeting time. Whether you are going to the park, ballgame, hunting, fishing, or shopping, this might be a great opportunity to invite someone you are trying to reach. Enjoy life together. Remember, you are a family!

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Message Outline

We come to the Lord's table as a Family of...

Followers.

Sojourners.

Missionaries.

We come to the Lord's table to Celebrate...

Jesus' Substitutionary Sacrifice on the cross.

The Future Feast with Jesus in Heaven.

The Gospel's Present Power in our lives.

Therefore, come to the Lord's table to...

Proclaim your need for the Gospel.

Remember Jesus met your need.

Leave changed by the Gospel.

Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God's Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

1. The Lord's Supper points us back to the sacrifice Jesus made for us and points us forward to the future celebration with Christ in heaven. Which of these perspectives is most significant to you? Why? What does 1 Corinthians 11:27 say about the seriousness of this meal? How does this relate to the Gospel's present power in your life today? What significance does it have in your life transformation?
2. The Kingdom of God is sometimes compared to a celebration, party, or feast (Matthew 22:2, Luke 13:29, Revelation 19:9). Yet Paul says in Romans 14:13-23 (esp. v. 17) that the Kingdom of God is not about food and drink but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. In light of this, what are some ways you can celebrate your life in Christ today in such a way that you positively impact the culture around you so others might be attracted to Jesus and not the world?

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**
Developing Missional Community
 - Family of missionary servants sent on mission by God to make disciples who make disciples.
 - Growing relationships with covenant members.
 - Growing relationships with unbelievers.
- **Local:**
Practicing hospitality in our communities.
 - Growing relationships with neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances.
 - Opening our homes to new friends.
 - Gospel conversation opportunities.
- **Global:**
Drew's upcoming trip.
 - Safe travels.
 - The Gospel to go forth.
 - Churches planted.