



Healthy Groups Keep A Balance In What They Do: Spend equal amounts of time connecting with each other (Fellowship), prayer and sharing how God is working in your life (Worship), growing in your faith through study and discussion (Discipleship), serving others both inside and outside your group (Ministry), and reaching out to those around with the message of Jesus Christ (Evangelism).

Be sure to pick up copies of the Passover ceremony (the Haggadah) for your group as a follow up activity for this material.

PREPARE:

- ⊙ How are you doing? Catch us up on your life. What has been a high and a low in your life since this group last met? How have you seen God work in your life since this group last met?
- ⊙ Some people are clean freaks- their floors shine brighter than a new car and their closets are organized by number, color, season, and fabric type. Some people are total slob- their floors are covered with last months dirty underwear and they are not even sure where their closet is. And many people are somewhere in between. What are you? Why?

GROW:

- ⊙ The account of the final plague and the Passover in Exodus 11-12 remind us that God's work to rescue us is a journey- not a single event. It is a journey that involves both God and us.
- ⊙ Read Exodus 11:1, 11:4-7, 11:9-10, 12:1-13, 12:29-30.
 - ⇒ What was God's role in rescuing the Israelites as seen in Exodus 11 and 12? What was the role of the Israelites in their rescue as seen in Exodus 11 and 12?
 - ⇒ Would it have been possible for the Israelites to save themselves? Why?
 - ⇒ Why didn't God automatically spare the lives of the Israelites instead of having them paint the blood of the lamb on their doorframe? What might have been God's purpose(s) in having the Israelites do something to indicate that the angel of death should pass over their home?
 - ⇒ What do you think would have been the mood of the Israelites as they painted the blood on their doorframe? Would there have been fear, reverence, respect, excitement, anticipation? Why? Would any single emotion have been more appropriate than another or would a range of emotions have been natural?
 - ⇒ Think about the process of killing a lamb and painting its blood on your door frame- realizing the lamb had to die so that you could live. How is Jesus our Passover lamb? What is your emotion toward the reality that Jesus is your Passover lamb? Does it leave you with a wide range of emotions or have you become numb to what Jesus has done for you? Why?





- ⊙ Read Exodus 12:31-42
 - ⇒ After 430 years the Israelites have finally escaped from slavery in Egypt. This reminds us that we should never give up on God even if he doesn't work as fast as we think he should to rescue us from difficult circumstances. Is there a difficult circumstance in your life that you wish God would rescue you from? What? How long has it gone on?
 - ⇒ The Israelites not only escaped but left as victors- the winning army plunders the losing army- the Israelites plundered the Egyptians. This reminds us that, as God's children, we will ultimately be victorious even if we have to face hardships right now. How does this reminder impact you as you face difficult circumstances? Why?

PRAYER:

- ⊙ Have your group's prayer coordinator close your group time in the throne room of God.
- ⊙ Consider praying in one the following ways:
 - ⇒ Go around the circle and have each person pray what is on their heart.
 - ⇒ Break into small groups and spend time letting each group share deeper and then close with prayer.
 - ⇒ Go around the circle and lift the person on your left up in prayer.
 - ⇒ Place someone in the middle of the circle who has special prayer needs. Have everyone place their hands upon them and lift that person up in prayer.
 - ⇒ If your group has children let the adults pray together and then bring the children into the group so that the adults can circle around them and pray.
 - ⇒ Everyone get down on their knees and earnestly lift your requests to God.
 - ⇒ Sing a song of prayer to God.
 - ⇒ Let the women of the group pray for the men and then let the men of the group pray for the women.
 - ⇒ Spend an extended amount of time at the beginning of your group time after you have shared with each other how things are going in your life.

NEXT WEEK:

- ⊙ This would be a great time to stop and do something very special as a group- share in the Passover celebration together. It will be meaningful since you just studied Exodus 11 and 12 and it will transform your understanding of communion since it was during the Passover meal that Jesus introduced what we now call communion or the Lord's Supper.
- ⊙ Sharing the Passover ceremony as a group will require 1-2 hours and some planning and preparation but it will be something well worth the effort. Unless your group can dedicate 2 hours without interruption you will probably want to plan the Passover ceremony for the next 2 group meetings- do the first half at the next meeting and the second half at the subsequent meeting- this will allow time for interaction and discussion as you proceed through the ceremony.
- ⊙ Select, as a group 1 or 2 people, who will bring together all of the elements for this special ceremony.