Small Group Guide

The Passover Lamb: Understanding the Sacrifice That Changes Everything

Based on Mark 14:12-26

Overview

This guide is designed to help your group go deeper into the truths presented in this sermon on the Passover lamb and the institution of the Lord's Supper. The sermon walked through five key truths from Mark 14: a sacrifice was required, obedience is essential, surrender is necessary, betrayal exposes the heart, and a new covenant was established. Use the questions and applications below to spark honest conversation and personal reflection within your group.

Key Takeaways

- Sin requires a sacrifice we cannot provide for ourselves. Just as Israel could not free itself from Pharaoh, we cannot free ourselves from sin. God provided the answer in Jesus, the final and perfect Passover lamb.
- Obedience often comes before clarity. The disciples followed Jesus' instructions without knowing every detail, and the outcome confirmed his faithfulness. Faith moves first; understanding often follows.
- Ordinary people and ordinary things become extraordinary when surrendered to Jesus. The unnamed homeowner with the upper room is a picture of what God can do when we make ourselves available.
- Proximity to Jesus does not guarantee devotion. Judas walked with Jesus, heard his teaching, and witnessed his miracles, yet his heart remained hardened. Genuine faith requires more than religious association.
- The Lord's Supper looks in two directions. It looks backward to the finished sacrifice of Christ and forward to the promise of his return and the fulfillment of his kingdom.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Think of a time when you had to follow instructions without fully understanding where they were leading. What was that experience like, and what did you learn from it?

Section 1: A Sacrifice Was Required

1. The sermon described how the need for sacrifice goes all the way back to Genesis 3, when God covered Adam and Eve with animal skins. What does this early act tell us about God's character and his plan for redemption?
2. The pastor noted that for 1,500 years the Passover sacrifice covered sin but never fully removed it. In what ways do people today still try to cover their sin rather than bring it to Jesus for cleansing?
3. Exodus 12 records God saying that when he saw the blood on the doorpost, he would pass over that household. How does this image shape the way you understand what Jesus accomplished on the cross?

Section 2: Obedience Is Required

4. Jesus told his disciples to follow a man carrying a jar of water, which was an unusual and culturally unexpected sign. Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed unusual or did not make immediate sense? How did you respond?
5. The sermon made the point that clarity often follows obedience, not the other way around. Do you find this to be true in your own experience? What makes it difficult to obey before we have all the answers?
6. The pastor shared that when he sensed God calling him to ministry, he did not have a degree, seminary training, or a clear path forward, yet he stepped out in obedience. How does his story challenge or encourage you in an area of your life where God may be asking you to trust him?

Section 3: Surrender Is Required

7. The unnamed homeowner had a large, furnished upper room that became the setting for one of the most significant moments in redemptive history. What ordinary possession, skill, or space in your life might God be calling you to make available to him?
8. The sermon referenced Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes about the vanity of accumulating things that will eventually pass to someone else. How does that perspective shape the way you think about what you own and how you use it?
9. What is the difference between making something available to God and fully surrendering it to him? Is there a distinction in your own life between those two things?

Section 4: Betrayal Exposes the Heart

10. When Jesus announced that one of his disciples would betray him, each one asked, "Is it I?" rather than pointing to someone else. What does that response reveal about the kind of self-examination Jesus expects from his followers?

11. The sermon made a strong statement: proximity to Jesus does not guarantee devotion to Jesus. How can someone be deeply involved in church life and still have a heart that is far from God? Have you ever experienced this tension personally?
12. Paul instructs believers in 1 Corinthians 11:27-28 to examine themselves before partaking in the Lord's Supper. What does genuine self-examination look like in practice? How often do you engage in it outside of the Lord's Supper?

Section 5: A Covenant Was Established

13. The sermon described five covenants in Scripture, culminating in the new covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31, which promises forgiveness of sins, transformed hearts, and an intimate knowledge of God. Which of those three promises means the most to you personally, and why?
14. Jesus blessed the bread and the cup, gave thanks, and sang a hymn, all while knowing he was about to be betrayed, arrested, and crucified. What does that tell you about the posture Jesus had toward his Father and toward his mission?
15. The Lord's Supper looks backward to what Christ accomplished and forward to his return. How does keeping both of those directions in view change the way you approach the Lord's Supper as a practice?

Practical Applications

This Week, Choose One of the Following

Examine Your Heart Before your next meal, take five minutes to sit quietly and ask yourself the same question the disciples asked: "Is it I?" Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal any area of your life where your heart has drifted from genuine devotion to Jesus. Write down what surfaces and bring it to God in honest prayer.

Identify Your Upper Room Make a list of three things you possess, whether a skill, a space, a relationship, or a resource, that you have not fully surrendered to God. Pray over that list and ask God to show you one specific way this week that you can make one of those things available for his purposes.

Practice Obedience in a Waiting Area Identify one thing you know God has been asking you to do that you have delayed because you are waiting for more clarity. Take one concrete step of obedience this week, even if you cannot see the full picture yet.

Reflect on the Lord's Supper Before your group meets again, read 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 on your own. Journal your response to this question: When I partake in the Lord's Supper, am I remembering what Christ actually did, or has it become a routine I move through without reflection?

Share the Story The sermon reminded us that the blood of the Passover lamb distinguished those who belonged to God. Think of one person in your life who does not know Jesus. Pray for that person by name every day this week, and ask God to give you an opportunity to share with them what the blood of Christ means to you.

Closing Reflection

The pastor closed the sermon with this observation: the disciples prepared a room, but Jesus was preparing redemption. As you leave this group time, consider what it means to be part of a story that God has been writing since Genesis 3. You did not initiate your own redemption. You were found, covered, and cleansed by a Lamb who walked willingly toward the cross and sang a hymn on the way.

Close your group time in prayer, thanking God for the Passover lamb, asking for hearts that are genuinely devoted rather than merely proximate, and surrendering whatever ordinary thing he may be asking you to place in his hands this week.