

A large flock of sheep is gathered in a desert landscape. In the foreground, a single sheep with thick, light-brown wool and a white face stands prominently, looking towards the camera. Behind it, many other sheep of various colors (white, brown, black) are scattered across the dry, dusty ground. In the background, a high, reddish-brown rock cliff rises against a pale sky. A person in a dark shirt is visible in the distance, herding the sheep.

WEEK 4 || *EXODUS 12:1-13:16*

## THE ONE WHO REDEEMS

Even though God has thoroughly defeated the Egyptian sorcerers, Pharaoh's heart remains rock hard. In his quest to gain glory over Pharaoh by leading his people to freedom, God's hand falls heavily on the Egyptians. In that first Passover God redeems his people, making them his own.

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## KNOWING GOD FROM EXODUS

1. **Read through chapter 12.** In the middle of a gripping story, suddenly we switch to a whole bunch of rules about how to commemorate these events in the future. What do you think that tells us about this moment in Israel's history?
2. What did the Israelites have to do in order to be absolutely sure that 'the destroyer' would pass over them?
3. With all that detailed instruction, what do you imagine the mood would have been like on that passover night?
4. Why do you think God told the Israelites to re-enact that same tense scenario every single year?

Having been saved out of slavery, Israel has become God's own possession. His people. This would have been very easy to forget as time went on. But God didn't want that.

### **Read chapter 13:1-16**

*Note: In the thinking of the ancient world, what you killed in sacrifice 'went up' to the gods.*

5. Unlike the gods of the land of Canaan, Israel's God Yhwh was strongly opposed to child sacrifice. What, then, was necessary?

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## KNOWING GOD IN JESUS

The idea of a firstborn belonging to God was one that made sense to ancient Israel. It was a part of their covenant with God that ensured they didn't take him lightly. But how does this work for non-Israelites in the new covenant?

Have a read of this scene from the throne room of God.

### Read Revelation 5

1. What was the great victory and conquest of the Lion of the tribe of Judah that's mentioned in verse 5?
2. What did Jesus' lamb-like sacrifice purchase and what response does it demand from them?

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## FEEL THE WEIGHT

Read the snippets from 1 Corinthians in the sidebar.

3. Given the heavy price that Jesus paid for your sin, what does it tell you about a) your value and b) how seriously God takes your sins?
4. How does our ongoing sin show that we take Jesus and his death lightly?
5. What would change if you really thought of your life as not your own but wholly belonging to Jesus?

The passover is Israel's reminder that it's not only God's enemies who can't take him lightly: they shouldn't either, and nor should we! As Christians we must not take lightly Jesus who purchased us for God, redeeming us from slavery to sin. And so neither do we take lightly the sin from which we've been set free.

**Praise God for purchasing you from slavery to sin into the freedom of serving Him.**

### *1 Corinthians 5:78; 6:19-20*

Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. ... You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.