

# RESPOND

Visitor? Need info updated in the directory?  
Want to sign up for something?  
Give us your info:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Which service do you attend?  8:45 am  10 am  
 11 am  5:30 pm

Sign me up for: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments, questions, interests: \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Passover, Jesus & You

Exodus 12  
Pastor Guy Gray

**The Passover, Jesus & You**  
In Exodus 12 we come to the very center of the story of redemption. All the previous plagues (chapters 7-10) have been preparing the way for this final act of judgment by God, which will lead to the freedom of God's people. Exodus 11 announces the final plague to come upon Pharaoh and Egypt, the death of the firstborn son. Exodus 12 shows how God will save His people, Israel, out of this act of judgment – how He will literally “pass-over” the Israelites in the act of judgment and then set them free. This passage is crucial in Exodus and for our understanding of the whole Old Testament, as well as the New Testament where we are shown that Jesus is the fulfillment of the meaning of Exodus 12. We cannot really understand the gospel of

Christ or life in Christ without entering deeply into the meaning of the Passover story.

**Behold the Lamb of God**  
The focal point of the Passover story is the lamb. Each and every family is to take a lamb, kill it, sprinkle its blood on the doorposts of the house, and then roast it and eat it together in a shared meal. The lamb is central to the story of redemption and it has two primary functions. First, the lamb is clearly a substitute who takes the judgment of God upon itself in the place of the people of Israel. In the land of Egypt, on that night, in every home someone died. There was also a death in every home of every Israelite, but it was the death of the lamb – the substitute. In the New Testament we are told that Jesus is our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7; see also 1

Peter 1:18-19). Jesus is our substitute taking our place in judgment that we might live and be free. But the second function of the Lamb was to provide nourishment – strength for the journey. So the people feasted on the lamb that had been slain. In similar way, Jesus said that we are to “eat His flesh and drink His blood.” (John 6:53) Jesus teaches us that we are to find the nourishment for our spiritual life and faith journey by “feasting” on His act of love and His presence as the Lamb of God in our lives. No wonder John the Baptist told the people that the most important thing they could do was to “behold the lamb of God!” (John 1:29).

**A New Beginning**  
God tells Israel that this miracle of Passover is going to be “your first month, the first month of your year.” (Exodus 12:2). This means that the Passover is the moment of new beginning for their lives. The Lamb of God creates a new reality for them, a new life, a new

future. From this moment forward they are to look at this day as the decisive turning point of their lives and their destiny. They are literally to see themselves and their world in a completely new light. This corresponds perfectly with the New Testament truth that God gives a new beginning to believers through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is why the focal point for Christians is to be on Jesus, the Lamb of God. This is why the Cross of Christ is the power of God in the life of the believer (1 Corinthians 1:17-18). This is why every time we take communion, we should see it as a reminder of God's promise of new beginning for our lives.

**A New Community**  
It is beautiful how Israel is called a “community” in Exodus 12:3. Here we are shown that it is through the Passover that the people of Israel actually came to be a “new community” – the community of the redeemed. It is the Lamb of God that

now connects these people. They now share this extreme and amazing experience of redemption! This is a perfect picture of Christian community as well. It is our shared faith in Christ and the redemption He has provided that creates the community of Christ, the church (see Revelation 5:9-12). This is why it is important for us to celebrate communion together with other believers. It is the affirmation that we are a community of faith that centers on the miracle of redemption through Christ.

**God's Part & Our Part**  
The people were to eat the meal with unleavened bread and with their walking shoes on, ready to head out into a new life! This reminds us that though God alone could provide the real miracle of redemption, we also have a role to play in moving into freedom. The leaven represented the traces of sin from the old life, and the “travel dress” represented the willingness to move forward with God

into the unknown. We must remember that God has provided all we need for freedom through Christ. But we must make a conscious choice to leave the past behind and move into a new life with God. We must be intentional about this. Are you ready to leave the past behind? Are you willing to search your life for traces of the old-life and let it go?

### Questions for Further Personal Reflection & Group Discussion

**Communion & Community**  
Take some time to respond to what you learned this week about community. Is there a time when you felt really bonded to a particular group? What circumstances created that bond?

Spend some time exploring the connection between “community” and “communion”? What is it that we are communing over and why is it so significant that we do this with others?

# UPCOMING

**F R I D A Y 12 / 8**

Family Christmas Craft Night benefiting  
the HOTEL Ministry, 6:30pm  
at River West Lake Grove

**S U N D A Y 12 / 17**

All Church Service, 10am  
at Lakeridge Performing Arts Center

**S U N D A Y 12 / 24**

No morning services  
Christmas Eve Service, 5:30, 7, 8:30 and  
10pm at Lake Grove. Childcare  
provided for 5:30, 7 & 8:30pm

**W e e k o f 12 / 25 - 1 / 1**

River West Office Closed

RIVER WEST PALISADES: 1595 Greentree Road, Lake Oswego, OR 97034  
RIVER WEST LAKE GROVE: 15751 SW Quarry Road, Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
OFFICES/COMMUNITY CENTER: 16148 Boones Ferry Rd., Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
phone 503.699.2226 / fax 503.697.9663 / email info@riverwest

# NOTES

RIVER WEST  
CHURCH

Building a Community  
of Christ for the World



next step | 11.26.2007  
www.riverwest.org

# WELCOME

Open your heart. Engage your mind. Together with others, reach for something real, deep and lasting. Come with your hurts, hopes, joys and fears. Expect something good, challenging and different. Here's why: Jesus Christ is alive and present with us as we gather to worship, pray and love one another in his name. That's what we believe! That's why we have come today.

At River West our mission is to build a community of Christ for the world. As we focus on Him in worship and the teaching of the Word, our prayer is that we will sense His presence and respond to His love. Life flows from this! To be in community means to share something in common with others. It is our shared faith in Jesus Christ that creates our sense of fellowship with Him and each other & from that shows our desire to share His love and grace with our community and world.

Our worship gathering is an important expression of our shared faith and life. But true community is built in other important ways as well. At the heart of our mission is what we call our Community Groups. These groups allow us to build relationships and grow deeper in our faith in Christ. For more information about various Community Groups call Pastor Adam at the church office.

Contact Pastor Josh regarding Student Ministry & Youth Groups for kids from 6th grade through High School. Our Children's Ministry Director, Lindsie Bailey would love to talk to you about fun stuff for kids at River West!