

Holy Week and God's Plan of Salvation

Thursday: Jesus Celebrates the Passover

The first Passover happened when God passed over the Israelite people in Egypt. God killed the firstborn son in each Egyptian house. But the Israelites put the lamb's blood on their doorposts, the same as God told them, and God saved them and their sons. The Passover celebration gives us a wonderful picture of how Jesus saves us. Jesus is our Passover Lamb. His blood saves us, and God's anger against sin passes over us. Here are some questions to think about while we study.

1. What did Jesus give up so He could save us?
2. How long ago was God planning for Jesus to come and die for us?
3. In the Lord's Supper, how does Jesus show He died to forgive us?

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

It is the night before Jesus will die. He will now begin to show the disciples how much He loves them and how much He will give up for them. Read John 13:1-11 (1353).

Jesus washed the disciples' feet. Why? Give two reasons.

1. Jesus _____ the disciples. (verse 1)
2. Jesus had everything under His _____. (verse 3) He didn't want to use that power now to rule. He wanted to _____.

Did Peter want Jesus to wash his feet? Why or why not?

Who is the only one who can make us clean? If we would rather wash ourselves, what happens to us? (verse 8)

Read John 13:12-17. Jesus gave the disciples an example. What does He want them to do? How do they do that? (verse 14)

Read verse 16. Jesus said, "Slaves are not superior to their owners, and messengers are not superior to the people who send them." Jesus is talking about our relationship to Him and our relationship to each other. What does that sentence mean for our relationships?

Apply Jesus' example to salvation. If kings and presidents today want to do something, they give an order. They use power to make it happen. Jesus didn't use power. He humbled Himself and served. Jesus served us to save us. How is that better than Jesus ordering that we become saved? (remember verse 1?)

Jesus Prepares for the Passover

Read Matthew 26:17-25 (1248). Did Jesus know He will die soon? Did Jesus plan and want to die soon? (verse 18).

God chose Passover as the time when Jesus will die. Review what happened at Passover. Read Exodus 12:1-13 (78).

1. God said He will kill the _____ in each family.
2. God said the Israelite people should kill a _____ and paint the _____ on the door posts.
3. When they paint the door posts, then they will _____.

How is Jesus like the lamb at Passover? Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 (1525).

Jesus Gives the Lord's Supper

Jesus is our Passover Lamb. Jesus also gave other new meanings to the Passover. Read Matthew 26:26-30 (1248).

During Passover, Jews eat matzah, a kind of flat bread, like a cracker. What did Jesus say the bread was? How does that show our salvation?

During Passover, Jews drink 4 cups of wine – the cup of Sanctification (making holy), the cup of Praise, the cup of Redemption (Salvation), and the cup of Hope. Jesus used the third cup for the Lord's Supper. What did Jesus say that cup of wine was? What does Jesus' blood do for us?

In the Old Testament, after God saved the Jews from Egypt, God led the Jews to Mount Sinai. There, He gave them the 10 Commandments and all of His law. Read Exodus 24:3-8 (94). This is God's old promise with the people. God promised the Jews will be His people. What did the people promise?

What did Moses sprinkle on the people? What did that mean?

Luke 22:20 (1325) says Jesus' blood is a new promise. How is Jesus' blood a "new promise" for us? How is the new promise different from the old promise?

Jesus didn't drink the fourth cup of wine with His disciples. What cup was that? Where and when will Jesus drink it?