

## **This Is A Game Changer**

### **The Straw That Breaks Egypt's Back:**

Exodus 11-12

### **Crystal Clear Directions For Saving Your Family:**

Exodus 12 Hebrews 11:28 John 1:29 1 Corinthians 5:7 Luke 22:14-20

▶ The substitute for death had to be:

- ✓ **Pure**
- ✓ **Personal**
- ✓ **Killed**
- ✓ **Applied**
- ✓ **Completely devoured**
- ✓ **Done in faith**

### **Taking It Home:**

John 14:6 Romans 3:23-24 5:10 6:23 10:9-10 Mark 16:16 Acts 4:12

▶ One way or another we are going to have to **accept a death**.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 31, 2016

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## MY STORY

1. From the Eucharist to the Lord's Supper, many of us have had different experiences with Communion. How would you best describe your past Communion experience?

- It's changed over time
- Meaningful and reflective
- Associated with weird religious rituals
- Intimidating
- Confusing
- Uplifting
- Impersonal
- Never done it
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. Chris pointed out that the Passover was the start of "rewriting our calendar", and that as Christians the coming of Christ was a "total game changer." Is there an experience or period in time where you realized God did a "total game change" in you?

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Chris reminded us that Jesus' sacrifice was necessary as payment for our sins and paved the way for our relationship with God. While we are no longer called to sacrifice in the same way today, there are still sacrifices we can make for God. As you read through the verses below, which one poses the biggest challenge for you in being "sacrificial" today?

**1 John 3:16-18** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>16</sup>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**Romans 12:1** New International Version (NIV)

*A Living Sacrifice*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

**Ephesians 5:1-2** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**Hebrews 13:15** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>15</sup>Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

Can you think of any changes that would come into your life if you were to put these verses into practice?

**2.** As we heard this weekend, the leaven or yeast represents leaving behind anything that would keep us from fully obeying God. While times have changed, the same principle is true in that even seemingly small sins can keep us from moving forward in our relationship with God. How could the following verses help someone who's tempted to justify what they may feel is a "small" sin?

**James 4:17** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

**Proverbs 28:13** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper,  
but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

**1 John 1:7-9** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

What are some reasons why people have a hard time or avoid confessing sin?

**3.** An important part of taking Communion is recognizing and reflecting on just how important God's sacrifice for us was. How do the following verses further expand our understanding of why God would sacrifice for us and how does that impact your view of Communion?

**2 Corinthians 5:21** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Galatians 3:13** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole."

**Romans 3:25** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

**Romans 4:25** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

After understanding what God did for us and why, how might you answer someone who says “all gods are pretty much the same”?

## TAKING IT HOME

*Because of the topic of this week’s sermon, we’re encouraging Growth Groups to celebrate Communion this week. The questions below are designed to prepare you. Whether with your Growth Group, your family or on your own, feel free to use this 5 minute video guide from Chris Brown:*

[northcoastchurch.com/communion](http://northcoastchurch.com/communion)

**1.** In 1 Corinthians 11:23-29, we’re told to examine ourselves in preparation for taking Communion. This doesn’t mean we’re perfect, but it does mean we look to see if we’re striving to live a life pleasing to the Lord. Take some time to examine your life in the following areas:

Any attitude or action you need to confess?

Any person you need to forgive or love?

Any blessing you need to thank God for?

**2.** On the previous page, Digging Deeper Question #2 is about small compromises that lead to sin. Is there an area in which you’ve begun to make small compromises? If so, what do you need to do to stop your slide down the slippery slope of compromise?

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Prayer Requests:

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