

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 03.22.2020

A GLOBAL PASSOVER – MATTHEW 26:26-30

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

The Entire World is in Sabbath to Hear The Voice of the Lord. Everyone around the world is being compelled to “stay home” and life as usual is coming to a halt. It is interesting that God made Adam and Eve on the 6th Day, meaning our first Day was a Sabbath. A Day of rest designed to begin our adventure walking with God and being drawn into relationship by *hearing His Voice*. The Entire World Is Experiencing Passover to Come Under The Blood. Passover celebrates the Exodus from Egypt and the Israelites' freedom from slavery to the Egyptians. *It was the 1st Feast commanded by God for Israel to observe. God would send forth His angel to see if the blood was over that family. Today we have this virus which is spreading and there is fear. We must come under divine protection. The Israelites were scared but God was faithful. Yet they left Egypt with bounty and full. The fear of the Lord is a good thing. Let's get into our study...*

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What stood out or spoke to you most from Pastor Ray's message this weekend?
2. Begin by asking a couple of people in your group to share a story about the most celebrated or memorable meal they have ever been a part of. Have them include details, such as the menu, the company, the ambiance, the occasion—anything that made it special. Why do you think food and meals are so often a part of our celebrations in life?
3. When you think of Scripture, what memorable meals come to mind?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 26:26-29 (TODAY THE ENTIRE WORLD IS COMING UNDER PASSOVER)

1. This scene with Jesus and His disciples took place during the annual Passover celebration. How did Jesus give new meaning to the Passover celebration?

The Passover meal served as a reminder of God's deliverance, love, and power. Jesus used this significant time to teach about Himself and foreshadow His death on the cross. The Lord's Supper celebrates believers' spiritual and permanent deliverance from sins. Rather than dying for only one family, the Lamb of God died for all the world (see John 1:29).

2. What is the significance of the bread? What is the significance of the cup? Which cup of the 4 cups celebrated at Passover did Jesus take part in?
3. As the disciples observed and listened to Jesus at the first Lord's Supper (Passover), what do you think might have been going through their minds? How much do you think they understood when Jesus spoke about His body and blood?

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Jesus' words "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Cor. 11:24-25) convey the idea of a figurative memorial. The bread and juice are symbols or pictures of Jesus' body and blood. They serve as reminders for us that Jesus sacrificed His body on our behalf, to pay for our sins and make it possible for us to have a relationship with God.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-22.

1. According to Paul, how were the Corinthians falling short when it came to having the Lord's Supper? How were these practices impacting the community of believers as a whole?
2. What changes would the Corinthians need to make to ensure that it really was the Lord's Supper?

In the early church, the observance of the Lord's Supper was part of a fellowship meal. But instead of sharing a common meal with consideration for others, some better-off Corinthian believers ate without waiting for everyone to arrive. The duties of poor believers and slaves prevented their arrival for the meal as early as others. Lack of consideration for everyone's needs resulted in some believers eating and drinking too much, while others were hungry. There was no attempt to make it a common meal of sharing genuine fellowship with the Lord and one another. They were focusing mainly on themselves as they ate the Lord's Supper. Because real love involves the whole family of God, Paul would not allow such division to continue, despite the fact that God was using it to reveal the spiritual quality of those in the congregation.

3. What do these verses teach us about the importance of the Lord's Supper?

HAVE ANOTHER VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28.

1. Paul repeats the words Jesus used during the Last Supper in verses 23-26. How do you respond when you hear these words during the Lord's Supper?
2. Why do you think Christians need to be reminded about the meaning and purpose of the Lord's Supper?
3. Are you ever tempted to start examining others instead of yourself? How can you prevent this from happening? What are some practical ways a person can "examine himself"?

Before we partake of the Supper, we should examine our attitudes and motives. For example, do we hold a grudge against someone? Since Jesus taught reconciliation with a fellow Christian as a precondition for offering a gift to God (see Matt. 5:23-24), we can do no less before we participate in the Lord's Supper. What is our motive for participating? Is the act an empty ritual that we perform just to keep from being different from those seated around us? Are we afraid of what others may think if we fail to partake? Paul's instructions regarding the Lord's Supper also apply to all kinds of corporate worship. We always need to approach God in worship with humility and sincerity of heart.

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Ray stated that God gave him a very vivid dream. An Indian man dressed like a priest / elder representing the Lord sprinkled Ray with water. Then an older Indian woman, whose eyes looked so piercing and wise, began praying and Pastor Ray began being filled with the Holy Spirit and a great Joy filled Him like the joy of heaven. The dream was so real that Pastor Ray woke up out of the dream. We are living in the day of visitation. God wants to visit His people. These are the days the prophets spoke about. "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your

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sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams (Acts 2:17). May you begin to hear the voice of the Lord that makes His word come alive.

1. As you reflect on what Christ has done for you, what are your feelings? What is an appropriate response to His sacrifice?
2. What will you do this week to reflect the change Christ has made in you?
3. How can you use the story of the Last Supper and its elements to share Jesus with someone?

PRAYER – Spend time thanking Christ for what He did for us. Ask God to continue to work in our church so that He will be glorified in this time while we are at home. Thank Him for the privilege of remembering His sacrifice together as the body of Christ through the practice of the Lord’s Supper. We are experiencing some of the “birth-pangs” that Jesus spoke about as we see the whole world locked in their homes. Let’s be actively waiting and watching, being about the Lords work!

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.,” Jer. 31:31,33

HOMEWORK – Pastor Ray asked us to read through Psalm 113-118 known as the Hillel Psalms. These Psalms would have been read by Jesus Himself during the time of the Passover.

Use the materials we have to start new VIRTUAL groups using ZOOM. <https://maranathachapel.org/growth-group-materials>