

Redeeming God, it is your will that all your people live free: free from slavery to everything that would rob us of the abundant life you desire for us. Save us from all that places us in bondage in this life and the next, that we might live as walking witnesses to your grace, mercy, and life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In the stories today, the meals/hospitality show God's salvation.

Day 1 Read Exodus 12:1-32

1. These verses recount the establishment of the Jewish Passover? What were the general instructions regarding preparing the meal?

2a. In verses 14-17 what instruction does God give regarding the Passover for the future?

b. Of what would that meal remind them?

3a. The final plague afflicted Egypt on the night of the Passover. What happened to the Egyptians who were not "passed over?"

b. What Command did Pharaoh give Moses in the wake of this plague? And thus, what was the result of this meal?

Day 2 Read Matthew 26:17-29

4a. As Jesus is gathering for the Last Supper before his arrest and death, based on verse 17, what day was this taking place?

b. Thus, what meal were they gathering to commemorate?

5a. In verses 26-29 . . . what elements of the meal might have been familiar to this young Jewish men who had celebrate the Passover their whole lives?

b. But Jesus does something else with those elements they would not have been familiar with. What does he say about those elements now?

- c. Jesus is often referred to as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Lambs, blood, bread . . . What has Jesus done to the Jewish Passover and what is he saying about freeing us from what “enslaves” us now?

Day 3 Read Mark 1:29-31

- 6. Jesus comes to the home of Simon and Andrew. What was wrong with their mother-in-law? What did Jesus do for her?

7a. It is an interesting detail . . . when the fever left her, what did she do?

- b. Why is her action so significant that this short account is found in three different gospels?

Day 4 Read Luke 24:13-35

- 8. This story of the Walk to Emmaus takes place after the resurrection.

- a. What direction are the disciples walking in relation to Jerusalem (Jerusalem being central in importance) at the beginning of the story?

- b. Based on what they say to Jesus (though they don't recognize him) in verse 21 how are they feeling post resurrection?

- 9. The disciples and the “stranger” arrive in Emmaus.

- a. What invitation do they give to the “stranger” in verse 29?

- b. What did Jesus do and what happened to the disciples while they were sharing the meal?

- c. Once they recognize Jesus, which direction to they walk in relation to Jerusalem?

Day 5 Read John 21:1-19

- 10. Jesus appears to the disciples on the shore after the resurrection.

- a. What invitation does Jesus give to the disciples in verses 10 and 12? What do they do together?

- b. Why is so much of this scene familiar to the disciples?

11. As they are gathering around the meal, Jesus asks Peter ***three times*** if Peter loves Jesus. And Jesus commands Peter to feed/take care of Jesus' sheep/lambs. What is this all about

Day 6

12. This lesson roots us in the importance of gathering with the Lord around meals and gathering in hospitality. Ultimately, these stories mostly point toward our fellowship in one meal in particular: the Last Supper. Why is it so important for us to share this meal as often as we can.