

BibleWorm Discussion Guide for September 29, 2024



Narrative Lectionary 3–04 Exodus 12:1–13 & 13:1–8 Corresponds to BibleWorm Episode 604

- 1) In this text, God tells the Israelites, “I’ll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I’ll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I’ll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt” (12:12). How do you relate to this depiction of God as destroying the firstborn of the Egyptians? What do you think it means that this is God’s judgment of the gods of Egypt?
- 2) The Israelites are told to smear the blood of a lamb over the door, so that when God sees the blood, “I’ll pass over you” (12:13). How do you understand the symbol of the blood over the doorframe? Why does God need the sign? Or why do the people? How do you relate to the symbol of blood painted over the door?
- 3) God instructs the people to eat “a lamb per house” (12:3) and instructs them that “if a house is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby” (12:4). Why do you think God is so specific about small families joining together to eat the lamb? Have you (or your community) ever joined with other people in a time of crisis?
- 4) God instructs the people to eat the lamb “dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry” (12:12). Why do you think God instructs them to eat the meal in this way? What do you think of ritualizing urgency like this, as it will be reenacted by future generations that observe the Passover ritual? Are there ways that you (or your community) need to be in more of a hurry today?
- 5) As Moses interprets the festival of Passover, he says, “You should explain to your child on that day, ‘It’s because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt’” (13:8). What rituals do you (or your community) have to pass on the faith to the next generations?