

A dark, moody landscape photograph featuring a tree in the center and a blue rectangular box with the text "WEEK 2" in white. The foreground is filled with tall, dark grass, and the background shows a cloudy sky.

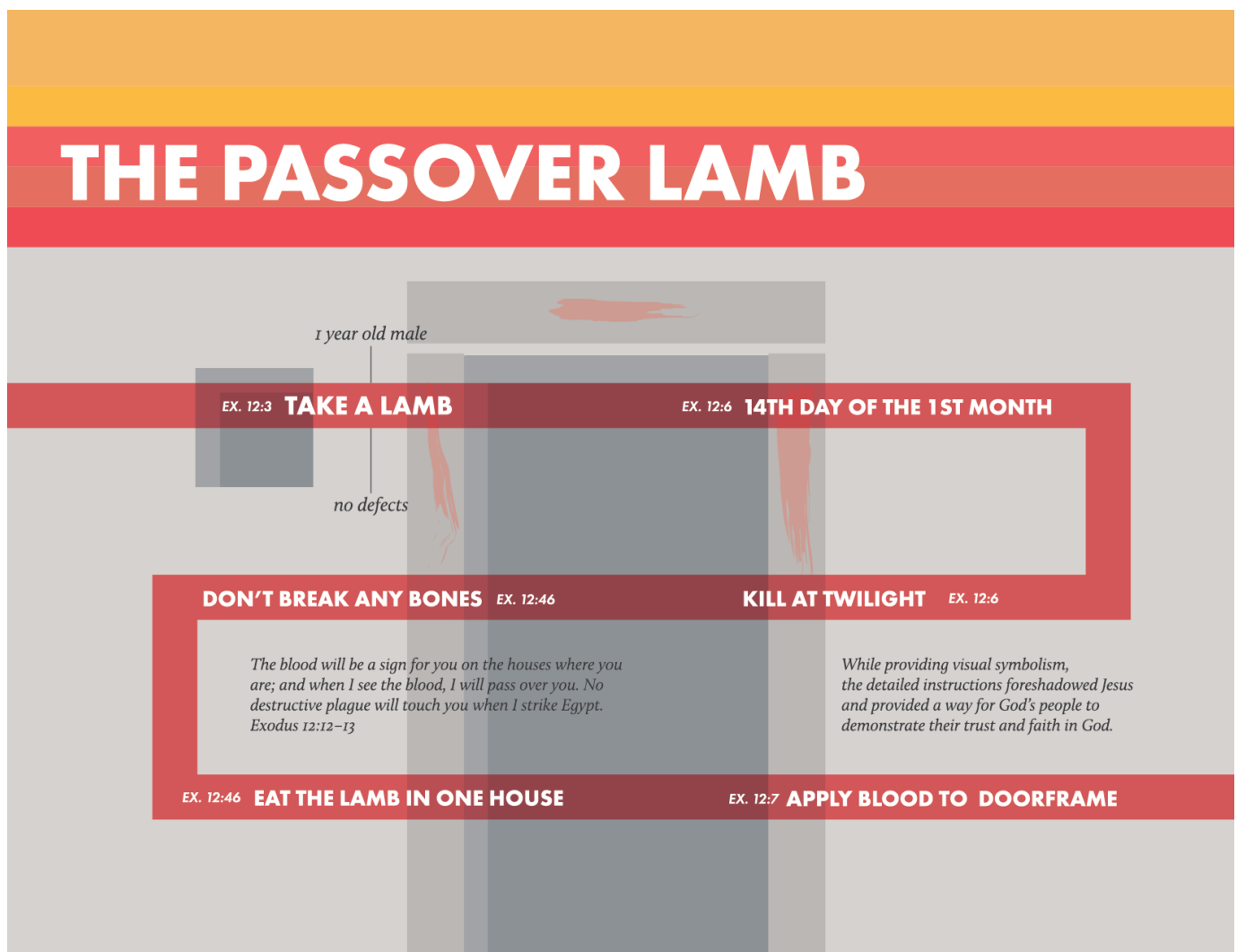
WEEK 2

# THE PASSOVER

The Old Testament Passover lamb was a foreshadowing of the better and final Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ. Through His sinless life and sacrificial death, Jesus gave people a way to escape death and have an eternal life (1 Peter 1:20-21).

The New Testament establishes a relationship between this Passover lamb in Exodus and Jesus as the Passover Lamb. John the Baptist describes Jesus as “the Lamb of God” (John 1:29), and Peter connects the lamb without defect in Exodus with Christ, a “lamb without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:19) because Jesus was completely free from sin (Hebrews 4:15). In Revelation, John sees Jesus as “a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain” (Revelation 5:6), which points to the fact that Jesus’ death took place during the week they celebrated Passover (Mark 14:12).

Just as the Passover lamb’s blood being applied to their door caused the “destroyer” to pass over each household, Christ’s blood causes God’s judgment to pass over sinners and give them eternal life. (Romans 6:23).



The Passover story is full of imagery that points to Jesus. How does God redeem His people from a world of sin and injustice? He's going to bring justice and set things right. But he's also going to provide a substitute, a lamb. And those who put themselves literally under the blood of the lamb find themselves rescued and spared from justice. You may not see Jesus' name mentioned in Exodus 12 & 13, but we do see the first mention of redemption.

The first Passover marked the Hebrews being free from slavery and the death of Christ marks our freedom from the slavery of sin (Romans 8:2). The first Passover was meant as a remembrance of God's faithfulness, and Christians today still take communion in remembrance of Christ's death and God's faithfulness to rescue His people.  
(1 Corinthians 11:26).

*The blood of the lamb* was a distinguishing mark for the Israelites as God's people.

*The blood of the lamb* saved them from the destruction coming to the Egyptians as a result of the plague.

*After the lamb* was sacrificed and the door marked with blood, the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt and out of slavery, by the strength of His hand (Exodus 13:16).

In a similar fashion, the blood of Christ is a distinguishing mark for us, as Christians. Because of Jesus, we are able to live freely by the grace He bought for us through His spotless life, death, and resurrection. His blood distinguishes us and sets us apart as a royal priesthood of believers called to spread the good news of the gospel to others (1 Peter 2:9). All of this is possible because "Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

*The blood of the Lamb* is a distinguishing mark for us, reminding us of His sacrifice and setting us apart as believers.

*The blood of the Lamb* washes us whiter than snow (John 1:29).

*The blood of the Lamb* reminds us of our salvation and pushes us to live a life of freedom (Galatians 5:1).

The Israelites were kept safe from the plague by the mark on their doors, and Christ's blood is a mark on our hearts, of the redemption found in Him. Thanks be to God.

Written by Ellen L. Taylor - *She Reads Truth*

## WEEK 2

### DAY 8 - MONDAY - THE PLAGUES BEGIN

*Exodus 6:28-30, Exodus 7-8, Genesis 47:4-6, Psalm 95:1-5*

#### CONFRONTING EGYPT'S GODS

Exodus records the instructions and events of the plagues for the purpose of showing how the Lord revealed both his person and his power through delivering Israel from Egypt. The plagues fall on areas of life supposedly protected by Egypt's gods, thus demonstrating the Lord's power over the gods of the world's mightiest nation. The narrative of the plagues is therefore not necessarily an exhaustive account of everything that happened but is shaped in order to communicate the aspects of each plague that are necessary for its purpose.

*Taken from the ESV Study Bible*

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY  
THAT WAS NEW, CONFUSING,  
COMFORTING, CONVICTING,  
HOPEFUL, OR ENCOURAGING?**

Go to [graceclarksville.com/intheword](http://graceclarksville.com/intheword) for additional study resources.

## WEEK 2

### DAY 9 - TUESDAY - THE PLAGUES CONTINUE

*Exodus 9-11, Deuteronomy 7:6-11, Romans 9:17*

#### THE HARDENING OF PHARAOH'S HEART

God called Pharaoh to humble himself and acknowledge that God is his authority and that he cannot redefine good and evil on Egyptian terms. Pharaoh's response is to balk at the God of Israel. After this, God gives Pharaoh five opportunities to repent and humble himself, and five times he hardens his heart. The author wants us to see that even the most heinous and absurd forms of human evil are not a true threat to God's purposes. He can steer even this kind of evil toward his plan to bless all humanity through Abraham's family. The author of Exodus is showing us that Pharaoh was responsible for the evil in his heart, and at a clear point in the story (after plague 5), he crossed a point of no return. At this point, God re-purposes this "vessel" for his own good purposes. Strange things happen in the human heart and mind when we let the evil urges of our broken nature go unchecked. God can and sometimes will allow our evil to destroy us. For now, let's ponder the mysterious justice and mercy of God, who wants to save us from ourselves.

Written by Tim Macke - *The Bible Project*

Pharaoh's hardening of his own heart is almost always followed with the statement "as the LORD had said." This truth is difficult and mysterious, and it's okay not to understand it fully yet, or maybe ever. But we can't cut it out of Scripture; we have to see how it fits in. He uses the wicked as a tool to advance His plan and bless His kids. It can feel threatening to realize God is bigger than our hearts, that He can shape them for His own purposes. It's important not to let fear drive that thought. The enemy of your soul wants you to view God's power through a lens that pushes you away from Him instead of drawing you in. Instead, think of how comforting it is to know a God that powerful! For God to be sovereign over sins and hearts means no one is beyond His reach and it's never too late. What a comfort!

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO  
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO  
PRAY?**

## WEEK 2

### DAY 10 - WEDNESDAY - THE PASSOVER

*Exodus 12, Exodus 13:1-16, Psalm 51:7, John 1:29*

**WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ME  
ABOUT GOD?**

**WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ME  
ABOUT HUMANITY?**

**WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ME  
ABOUT JESUS?**

Refer to pages 16-17 for more on the Passover.

## WEEK 2

### DAY 11 - THURSDAY - ESCAPE THROUGH THE RED SEA

*Exodus 13:17-22, Exodus 14, Exodus 15:1-21, Psalm 106:1-12, Romans 6:1-4*

**LOOK FOR GOD: WHAT IS HE LIKE?**

**WHAT DOES HE LOVE OR HATE?**

**WHAT MOTIVES HIM?**

**WRITE DOWN ANYTHING NEW OR ANYTHING  
THAT JUMPS  
OUT AT YOU**

**WRITE DOWN QUESTIONS YOU HAVE OR  
ANYTHING  
YOU WANT TO STUDY FURTHER**

**PAUSE TO REFLECT ON WHAT YOU'VE  
LEARNED IN PASSAGE**

## WEEK 2

### DAY 12 - FRIDAY - THE LORD PROVIDES IN THE WILDERNESS

*Exodus 15:22-27, Exodus 16-17, John 6:41-51, I Corinthians 10:1-5*

#### GOD'S PROVISION

God says to gather manna every day except the Sabbath. God is testing for potential pitfalls in their thought life: Will I have a scarcity mentality and try to hoard the manna, or will I trust it will be there again tomorrow? Am I willing to work twice as hard gathering on Friday in order to rest on Saturday? Will the food I gather on Friday be enough to carry me through Sunday morning? Will God keep His promise to provide for me if I stop to rest as He has commanded? God hasn't given them the Ten Commandments yet, but He's been hinting at this idea of resting on the Sabbath since creation, and He points to it again here. If they trust that He controls the forces of nature, they'll respond by obeying. God commands His people to rest and trust Him to provide. They've been slaves with no days off, so it feels unnatural to them not to strive and work. But this is just one more way God shows them that He's a better God than Pharaoh. He knows our human nature longs to earn things, to feel accomplished. But the very nature of His relationship with us is that we're the recipients, not the earners, not the doers. He is the doer, and He says it is done! Hebrews 4:9 calls Jesus "our Sabbath rest"; His finished work on the cross frees us from trying to earn His approval and favor. We have nothing to offer anyway. It is said that when Martin Luther was asked what he contributed to his salvation, he replied, "Sin and resistance." God Himself has done all that He requires of us.

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

**DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH TRUSTING GOD FOR PROVISION?**

**WHAT MIGHT GOD BE REVEALING TO YOU IN TODAY'S READING ABOUT HIS PROVISION?**

**WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF TRULY "RESTING" IN THE LORD?**

**HOW COULD YOU PRACTICE SABBATH REST THIS WEEK?**



## WEEK 2

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### DAY 13 - SATURDAY - GRACE DAY

*Use today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's reading.*

**As you reflect on what you've read this week:**

1. What themes did you see emerge?
2. What was the biggest thing that God revealed to you this week?
3. What next step do you need to take based on what He revealed to you this week?

## WEEK 2

### DAY 14 - SUNDAY - REFLECTION DAY

**Meditate on these verses:**

*"For you are a holy people belonging to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be his own possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth."*

**Deuteronomy 7:6**

*"But Moses said to the people, 'Don't be afraid. Stand firm and see the Lord's Salvation that he will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again.'"*

**Exodus 14:13**

#### WALKING IN VICTORY

This season of Lent is meant to remind us not only of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, but also of the Israelites' wilderness wandering. Jesus fulfilled the mission that they could not. Oftentimes we think of Lent as a somber season; a season to remind us of our own wandering. But the reality is, there is so much cause for rejoicing. Sure, we may not have inherited the fullness of the promised land yet, but once we turn to Jesus, slavery to sin and darkness no longer defines us.

You may not be perfectly where you want to be, and you may not be fully who you want to be. But thank God you are no longer where you once were, or who you once were. Sure there is progress to be made, and there are mile markers to be passed. Yet slavery, a life yoked to sin, is in the rear view. God has called you one of His own and called you out of the land of the Egyptians.

While Lent reminds us that we still experience tensions in this life, it also reminds us that we who believe are God's people. As such, we get to participate in Jesus' victory over sin, the wilderness, and death—once and for all.

We place our lives under God because He first called us to be His people. Let this Lenten season be the one where you decide once and for all to place the fullness of your being under His loving leadership. He's called you out of slavery and will faithfully see you through to the promised land.

Written by Andrew Stoddard - *He Reads Truth*