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— Notes | December 7, 2025

Unshakeable Christmas | Obedience Leads to Freedom

The entire Bible is ONE rescue story: God pursuing His people to bring us back to Himself. It is not just a man-made book. It is God-inspired, His Story of His Love for humanity. Within each page, we see how intentional, long-suffering, and passionate the Lord is to rescue and free us.

In the season of Advent, we celebrate God's unchanging character as we recognize His pursuit of us. Advent is a season of expectant waiting, preparation, and longing for the coming of Jesus.

One such season of waiting, recorded in the Bible, is that of the Passover. A season that revealed the heart of God for His people, and the freedom He calls us to. Passover is not just a tradition, it's not just a meal, and it's not just history. Passover is a blueprint. It's a rescue story that serves as a foreshadowing and a warning. The first Passover called the people to obey the word of the Lord by sacrificing a spotless lamb to save the firstborn for ONE night, subsequently leading God's people to freedom from slavery. But it was never the final story—it was only a preview. The ultimate Passover provided the Spotless Lamb (Jesus) as the sacrifice that saves all who believe from the chains of sin and death ETERNALLY. Freedom is only found in Christ.

Key Scripture | Exodus 12:50-51

"All the Israelites did just what the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. And on that very day the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions."

Related Scriptures

— Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 1:11,22, Exodus 2:10,23-25, Exodus 3:7-10, Exodus 5:2, Exodus 11:4-5, Exodus 12:3,5-7,11-13, Exodus 12:28, Exodus 13:14-16, Psalm 46:10, Luke 22:19-20, John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 5:7

Icebreakers:

— Q: If your small group were a band, what's the one "rule" (e.g., no solos, always harmonize, wear skinny jeans, etc.) you'd immediately change for your debut album?

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Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. A Season of Waiting

Q: For 430 years, God's people lived in bondage under Egyptian rule. Read Exodus 2:23-25 and Exodus 3:7-10. What does the text tell us the Israelites did during this long period of waiting? What was God's response?

Q: In Genesis 12, we read of God's promise to Abraham: "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you." "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." How might these promises have encouraged the people of Israel as they waited for rescue?

Q: How have you seen God move in personal seasons of waiting?

II. God's plan of Rescue

Q: God's plan of Rescue involved ten plagues designed to dethrone the gods of Egypt. The captivity was never just Egypt. The captivity was to sin. What are the things in our own lives that need to be dethroned so we can find rescue from sin?

Q: The final plague was the plague of the angel of Death taking the firstborn. Read Exodus 12:7-13. What does verse thirteen say would save His people from judgment?

Q: The blood on the doorpost provided salvation from death. How did the blood on the doorpost foreshadow the Blood of the Lamb? How does the Blood of the Lamb provide salvation?

III. Obedience Leads to Freedom

Q: Read our key scripture. What does it say that Israel did? What was God's response?

Q: How does God's rescue of Israel in the Story of the Passover reveal His unchanging character?

Q: The Last Supper served as the fulfillment of the first Passover with Jesus serving as the spotless Lamb. We celebrate this today as Communion. In Luke 22:19-20, Jesus instructed His disciples to remember. What are we called to remember? How can you make this personal?

Get Practical

It feels costly to obey, but obedience is God's pathway to true freedom. Psalm 46:10 says: "Be still and know that I am God." In this first week of Advent, spend time with the Lord being still. Ask Him to reveal the hope He has for you and to search your heart for any gods He wants to dethrone for you to fully follow Him. Over the next seven days, commit to spending time in gratitude for the salvation Jesus has provided. If you need prayer, reach out to your small group leader or text prayer to 37748 so we can pray with you.