“The Cost & Blessing of Freedom”

*Exodus 11-12*

Freedom has a high price. For some political refugees today, it means a perilous journey at sea on small, overcrowded vessels. For others, it involves a long and dangerous journey over mountains and across deserts only to end up stuck in an overcrowded refugee camp.

Opening Idea – If possible, invite someone to your group who has come to Canada to find freedom. Ask them to briefly tell their story, especially what they had to give up to gain freedom. **OR**

Perhaps someone in your group had to go through an operation or radiation or chemo. Ask them to share their story & what they had to give up to become free from cancer or disease.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Exodus 11.** How will be different about this plague (and its effects) compared to the previous ones?
2. Why do you think Pharaoh continued to disregard Moses’ warning? Why do you think people disregard God’s warnings today?
3. **Read Exodus 12.** What are the Israelites told to do to prepare for this final plague?
4. Imagine yourself as the head of a family in Israel. How would you explain the meaning of the Lord’s Passover to your children (vv.26-27)?
5. How does the Passover meal remind you of the Lord’s Supper (Mark 1412-26)? How do rituals like Communion help you remember what God has done for you?
6. The apostle Paul described Christ as “our Passover lamb” (1 Corinthians 57). What is required of a person for Jesus to be his or her “Passover lamb”?
7. Describe how the Israelites are to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread (vv.14-20)? Why was it attached to the Passover?

How effective do you think it would be as “a lasting ordinance”?

1. God spared his people from the deadly effects of previous plagues, so why do you think he chose to do the final one the way he did?

What would an Israelites’ obedience or disobedience regarding God’s instructions indicate about their faith in God? Who’s invited & excluded from joining in the Passover meal (vv.43-49)?

1. If you have you embraced Jesus as your Passover Lamb, what immediate and lasting effects has he had on you (cf. 1 Peter 118-21)?
2. How can this group pray for you?