

# Who's next?



**ORIGINAL STUDY GUIDE:**  
Use this tool to not only accelerate your own spiritual growth but also to make an impact in someone else's life! Take two; pass one on or start a small group within your community of friends by setting a weekly time and place to meet for a Bible study.

**WEEK 1:**  
The Joy of Commemorating

# This year...

the US government has designated ten days as federal holidays. The list includes two birthdays, three days of historic significance, two days honoring our military, one religious holiday, one day honoring the work force, and one day celebrating the new year. There is no doubt...we find joy and deep meaning in celebrating the people and events that have shaped history and impacted our lives!

# Be honest.

1. What is your favorite holiday?

What makes that day stand out above all the others?

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# Say What?

After four hundred years of slavery in Egypt, the people of Israel were virtually hopeless. For as far back as they could remember, they had been oppressed by the nation of Egypt. Lacking organized leadership and even an inkling of military prowess, they seemed destined to be enslaved forever. But then a miracle happened! God called a Hebrew exile named Moses to demand their freedom from the Pharaoh. With no weapons, no army, and even without the full support of the Israelites, Moses secured their release through a series of God-ordained miracles. Finally free from the tyranny of slavery and filled with plunder from their oppressors, the people of Israel triumphantly marched out of Egypt at Pharaoh's insistence to begin their new lives!

## Read Exodus 13:3-10 [NLT]:

3 So Moses said to the people, "This is a day to remember forever—the day you left Egypt, the place of your slavery. Today the Lord has brought you out by the power of his mighty hand. (Remember, eat no food containing yeast.) 4 On this day in early spring, in the month of Abib, you have been set free. 5 You must celebrate this event in this month each year after the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites. (He swore to your ancestors that he would give you this land—a land flowing with milk and honey.) 6 For seven days after the Lord rescues you, there must be no yeast in any of the bread you eat or in any of the dough you mix. 7 Eat bread without yeast during those seven days. In fact, there must be no yeast bread or any yeast at all found within the borders of your land during this time. 8 On the seventh day you must explain to your children, 'I am celebrating what the Lord did for me when I left Egypt.' 9 This annual festival will be a visible sign to you, like a mark branded on your hand or your forehead. Let it remind you always to recite the teaching of the Lord: 'With a strong hand, the Lord rescued you from Egypt.' 10 So observe the decree of this festival at the appointed time each year."

## More to the story:

The final plague that God brought on Egypt was the death of the firstborn. Every firstborn person and animal in Egypt was killed, while the Israelites were "passed over." When Pharaoh awoke to the sorrow of his grieving nation, he demanded that the Israelites leave immediately! It happened so suddenly that there wasn't even time for Israel to add yeast to their dough. Thus the Passover celebration was always marked by the consumption of unleavened bread (Exodus 12:39).

WEEK 1: The Joy of Commemorating

# Say What?

2. What event did Moses instruct the Israelites to commemorate?

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3. How was Israel supposed to commemorate this event?

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4. To what did Moses compare the festival?

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5. Why did Moses tell the Israelites to commemorate this event?

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# So What?

6. Why do you think it was so important for the Israelites to remember that God had delivered them from slavery in Egypt?

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7. Escaping slavery after four hundred years of bondage should have been memorable in and of itself! So why do you think the Israelites needed an annual festival to remind them about such a monumental event in their history?

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8. Do you think holidays, events, and/or special occasions are effective at reminding us of significant moments in our past?

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9. What are some other ways to remind ourselves of what God has done for us?

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WEEK 1: The Joy of Commemorating

# Now What?

Just like Israel, every true follower of God has an “*Exodus from Egypt*” story, a moment in time when God revealed His liberating power in a supernatural way! And just like Israel, we find that the memories of that moment can wane or even evaporate if we don’t pursue ways to remind ourselves of His goodness and faithfulness in our lives! God wants us to commemorate what He’s done for us, to remember what our lives were like before we let Him in and how He has changed them since!

After all,  
we can’t pass on  
what we don’t remember!

## T Transparency Time:

Sunday school answers are for sissies!

Be honest! We ALL have struggles.

Honor your small group partners by sharing openly and honestly about yourself and by keeping everything that is shared by others in complete confidence.

Remember: “What’s SAID in small group,  
STAYS in small group!”

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# Now What?

10. Which is harder for you to do: to be consistently cognizant of what God has done in your life or to be consistently intentional about sharing those moments with others? Explain your answer.

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11. What is one thing in your life that would change for the better if God's goodness and faithfulness were always in the forefront of your mind?

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12. What is one practical step you will take this week in order to commemorate what God has done in your life?

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## Further Reading:

Day 1:  
Exodus 1-2

Day 2:  
Exodus 3-4

Day 3:  
Exodus 5-6

Day 4:  
Exodus 7-8

Day 5:  
Exodus 9-10

Day 6:  
Exodus 11-12

Day 7:  
Exodus 13-14

WEEK 1: The Joy of Commemorating

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# Notes:

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2. The Israelites were commemorating their escape from slavery in Egypt (vv. 3, 9).

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3. The Israelites were to celebrate their exodus from Egypt once a year (this became known as Passover) by eating unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in early Spring. On the seventh day, they were supposed to have a feast and explain the meaning of the celebration to their children (v. 4-8).

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4. Moses likened the annual festival to a mark branded on someone's hand or forehead (v. 9).

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5. It seems that the primary purposes for implementing Passover was ensure that the story of Israel's deliverance from Egypt was passed down from generation to generation (v. 9).

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6. The Exodus from Egypt was a historically and spiritually monumental event! God proved His deity and power through the ten plagues that He sent on the Egyptians (Exodus 7-12). If Israel failed to remember how mightily God had acted on their behalf, they would be forgetting more than an event – they would be forgetting Him!

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7. God knew that all the former slaves would eventually die, but He wanted to be sure that the story of their escape didn't die with them. Plus, God knew that despite their great deliverance, the memories of Israel's slavery and subsequent escape from Egypt would wane over time if not intentionally commemorated.

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8. Communion is one of the ways that Jesus told us to remember Him (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Other ways include journaling, witnessing, and blogging.