

## **Chapter 5: Shape Arrows at Home**

### **Dig Deeper:**

Read Deuteronomy 6:7

*“You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”*

### **God’s Holy Feasts and Spiritual Maturity**

There are three major “Feasts” on the Jewish calendar: *Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles*. It should not surprise us that these Feasts or Holy Days have great significance both corporately and individually for believers.

Over the next three sessions, we’re going to explore how the three major Feasts correspond to the three phases of personal spiritual maturity taught in the Scriptures. Parents should learn and teach these phases to their children, because they are of utmost importance in understanding the bigger picture as well as grasping the balance between grace and works that can get so confusing in the NT (New Testament) teachings. Our example comes out of the OT by following the symbolic physical journey offered through the Israelites, and corresponds to the NT teachings by Paul in regards to our spiritual journey today.

### **Egypt to the Promised Land: Phase 1 of a Personal Journey**

**Passover (justification):** Recall the story. The **Israelites** made a journey out of **Egypt** when they were miraculously delivered from the **death** angel by the **blood of the lamb** painted by faith on their doors. There was no other effort required. The **Red Sea** was a continued step of this heroic deliverance when God brought the Israelites to a potential water grave and once again, miraculously delivered them from the **Egyptians**. In this one event, they were delivered from their place of captivity (Egypt), and in the other from their captors (Pharaoh and his Egyptian army).

So how do we understand this event as relevant and even vital to our family’s faith today? There’s an unfolding story and prophetic application through this biblical account—one that’s “brought home” for us in Deuteronomy 6.

*Out of Egypt:* We must first understand that “Israel” was God’s chosen people in the OT in the natural world sense to bring about the line of Messiah as well as godly offspring into the world. This OT application in the natural world has spiritual implications for us today. Read the following two passages:

*When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.” John 1:47 (NIV)*

*For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; 7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED.” 8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. Romans 9:6-8*

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According to Jesus and Paul, who is considered a true “Israelite” in today’s world? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Read Romans 2:28-29: For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.*

Who does God consider a “Jew” in today’s world? \_\_\_\_\_

God’s “chosen people” today are the true spiritual descendants of Abraham who are set apart from the “children of the flesh,” and who are the ones named through Isaac as godly offspring. This is a big theme of the NT, and we will learn more these kinds of people in chapters 6-8.

**Personal Passover:** The Passover Phase is also known as the “salvation” experience, when a person puts their faith in the blood of the Lamb, painting it on the door of their heart and home. These individuals begin the journey out of Egypt (bondage to **sin** resulting death), continuing through the Red Sea where Pharaoh’s (Satan’s) control over the people is stripped away, and they are transferred from the dominion of darkness into the dominion of light (Acts 26:15-18).

In Hebrew the word for “sin” is “chattath” and the word in Greek is “hamartia.” Both words are derived from archery terms and mean to “miss the mark” or “miss the target.” In other words, sin is merely missing the target that God established for mankind, which is obedience to the Law (Torah). The required penalty for missing the mark is death for all.

This heroic rescue mission sent by God for those “missing the mark” and the resulting death is by no effort or ability of one’s own. We cannot be good enough to get out of Egypt on our own. We cannot keep the Law (Torah) perfectly, so our deliverance comes only through the blood and finished work of Christ at the cross. In the New Testament, Paul gives this step a name:

*“...nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.” Gal. 2:16 (look up also Romans 3:21-28, Rom. 5:15-17; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9)*

Paul refers to this miraculous deliverance as “justification by faith.” Justification corresponds to Passover and it is the free gift given for faith in and confession of Jesus Christ as Savior. However, I believe that the Red Sea teaches us that we are delivered *through* death, not *from* it. We all must die, as the Law requires, however Christ came to deliver us through death by resurrection!

I believe the Bible teaches that there are TWO deaths that every believer must go through as a part of their complete Passover experience. Read Psalm 89:48: *“What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his soul from the power of Sheol (the grave)?”*

What is the first type of death all must die? \_\_\_\_\_.

Read the following verses and answer the question:

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*For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter. Romans 7:5-6*

*“So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God (Romans 8:12-14).”*

*“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20*

Describe the nature of the “second death” required for believers? \_\_\_\_\_

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The “second death” for believers is plainly described in Matthew 16:25:

*“For whoever wishes to save his soul will lose \*[destroy] it; but whoever loses \*[destroys] his soul for My sake will find it.” Matt. 16:25* \*The Greek word for “lose” is “apollumi” which is translated most places as “destroy.” This Greek word carries the idea of separating from and putting away or making obsolete. The word “soul” is translated as “life” in most versions of this verse, but the literal Greek word is “soul” which is footnoted in many Bibles, including NASB.

I believe that the “soul” talked about here is the inner conscious man made up of the mind, will, and emotions and that we act out on this part of our inner man “in our flesh,” whether for the good or bad. So the body dies regardless when we stop breathing, but we are commanded to put our souls to death here. That means we have a choice about it. I believe the Bible teaches (in accurate translations) that when it comes to our soul, we either “die now or die later.” This goes back to Genesis 9:4-5 when God describes the price of the curse to Noah (with the more accurate Hebrew translation):

*“Only you shall not eat flesh with its soul, that is, its blood. Surely I will require your soul blood; from every beast I will require it. And from the hand of every man, from the hand of every man’s brother I will require the soul of man.” Genesis 9:4-5*

I love the picture materializing in Scripture when you use the accurate words and understand the relationship of the soul to the kind of “death” we are called to choose in this life. Check out a few powerful verses about our Savior:

*“...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His **soul** a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28*

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*“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.” 1 Timothy 2:5-6*

*“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His **soul** for the sheep. John 10:11*

Comparing these verses to Genesis 9:4-5 above, it is inspiring to see that, while the soul is required from every man, Jesus came to ransom back our souls by giving His! And that means that, in addition to the resurrection of our bodies, we will also realize the resurrection of our souls, only next time they will both be immortal and without sin!

That is an overview of the Personal Passover experience, also called salvation. Next week we will look at phase 2 of the spiritual maturing process for each believer.

### **Group Interaction:**

- Which home training methods or mentalities did you relate to the most in Chapter 5? Why?
- Share with the group some of the ideas/methods of discipling that have worked in your home.
- What do you see as the difference between “methods” and “mentalities” of family discipleship? Do you see one as more important than the other? If so, explain why.
- What have you personally learned from this chapter that will bring about change in your parenting mentalities and methods?
- Discuss the methods and examples you can recall Jesus using on His disciples that were effective in training them to be sold out for the sake of the Gospel...
  - ...In matters of personal, intimate relationship with God?
  - ...In matters of relationships with people?
  - ...In matters of obedience to God?
  - ...In matters of surrender to “the mission”?

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### Bring it Home:

#### Jesus taught His disciple to FORGIVE...

Day 1: Read Matt. 6:14-15

*“For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”*

Day 2: Read Matt. 18:21-22

*Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”*

Day 3 Read: Mark 11:25

*“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.”*

Day 4: Read Luke 17:3-4

*“Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”*

Day 5: Read Luke 23:33-34

*When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”*

Day 6: Read Matthew 5:44-45

*“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven...”*

Day 7: Read Is. 53:7

*He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.*

& 1 Peter 3:8-9

*To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.*