

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2009-10
Exodus #5: The Passover & Liberation

TGQ = Tim Gray Study Set Questions
TGR = Tim Gray Study Set Responses
TGCD = Tim Gray CD Set
NJBC = New Jerome Biblical Commentary
FATHER = A Father Who Keeps His Promises
HO = Special Handout
SK = Sze Go Chinese Bible

A	<p><u>Introduction of related scriptural passages</u></p> <p>“Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening”</p>	<p>Ex 11: 1-15:21</p> <p>1Sam 3:9</p>
B	<p><u>The Warning of the 10th Plague and the Consecration of the Firstborn Son</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stirring liturgical readings of the Easter Vigil. • “They had asked the Egyptians for jewellery of silver and gold, and for clothing” – to compensate the Israelites for the 430 years of oppression and slavery. • The death of the firstborn brings out the theme of the “firstborn” once again: The irresponsible firstborn sons in Genesis, the law of consecration of the firstborn to God. Luke describes Jesus as Mary’s “firstborn son” according to this law; the term does not imply that Mary had other children. • The priestly role of the High Priest Melchizedek is traditionally passed on to the firstborn. The firstborn usually takes over the father’s job. Therefore, Priest = Father, this also explains that the title “Father” for priests is not against Jesus’ teaching. Israel, God’s firstborn, must lead all nations to holiness. Since the idol-worshipping of the golden calf, this custom has become the Levitical priesthood. This custom; however, is temporary, as it prefigures and awaits our High Priest Forever, Jesus Christ, who has inherited Melchizedek’s priestly responsibilities (inherited by the firstborn) and fulfilled the ultimate purpose of priesthood, that is, sanctification and redemption. 	<p>Ex 11, 13</p> <p>SK</p> <p>Ex 11:4-5 Ex. 13:1, Num 3:12, Lk 2:7</p> <p>Catholic for a Reason, p 214-228, Mt 23:9</p> <p>Heb 5:6, 10:3-10</p>
C	<p><u>An Explanation of and Reflection on the Meaning of Passover</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God does not need the offerings of animals, He needs those who offer the sacrifice, the Israelites; similarly, God does not need our praise and worship, He needs us. • The 10th plague differs from the other 9 that even the Israelites are not spared. They; however, rely on the blood of the lamb to preserve the life of their firstborn ➡the “wages of sin is death”, even God’s chosen people are not spared, but need to rely on the Lamb’s blood, Christ, for redemption. “Jesus paid a debt he didn’t owe because we owed a debt we couldn’t pay.” • Animal sacrifices and unleavened bread are common customs of the shepherds and farmers living in the Middle East, some even carry out human sacrifices. God transforms this pagan custom into a ritual of worship. This is aligned with the spirit of the universal Church, i.e. her Catholicity. Later, Gregory the Great and missionaries also follow similar directions that continue to make a huge impact on the Church today, • The day of preparation, dusk, the congregation of Israelites, a one-year-old lamb without blemish, slaughter, lamb’s blood, dipping the hyssop into the blood (Ex 12:22), door posts and lintel, foreigners are not allowed to partake ... all these accurately prefigure Christ’s passion on the cross. • The Last Supper = Passover Meal. What Christ did was according to the OT customs of Passover and sacrifice required by the law of the Temple. The ultimate 	<p>Ex 12</p> <p>TGQ 26, Ps 51 Mt 6:7, HO 1</p> <p>TGR 5-1 Q2 Rm 6:23</p> <p>NJBC 3:23-25 Eph 3:5-6 Rm 16:25-26 Ps 87:4-5 Is 60</p> <p>HO 2 TGR 5-2 Q7</p> <p>TGR 5-2 Q4 Mk 14:22ff</p>

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	<p>and true burnt offering: the sacrifice of the Lamb of God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God requires the Israelites to celebrate Passover forever. In mass and sacraments, the grace of this “once and for all” sacrifice comes through the blessing of the ordained priest and becomes present anew, bringing heaven to earth. 	<p>TG Q28 CCC 1363-66 Heb 10:10</p>
D	<p><u>Crossing the Red Sea and the Song of Triumph</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “the pillar of clouds during the day and pillar of fire at night” symbolize the presence of God among His people. God points to Pentecost, in which tongues of fire symbolizes and signifies the Church’s Holy Spirit, through the image of fire and light (the burning bush; “Your lamp is a light to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps 119:105). • Passing through a path of darkness and water – an image of natural birth to bring out the birth of a new nation; it also symbolizes the sacrament of baptism: those who are enslaved by sins will be sanctified through water to regain freedom and enter the Promised Land. • “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” → Human beings are so enslaved by sin that they prefer slavery out of fear of suffering. No wonder God has to force the Israelites to leave Egypt by using the blood of lamb painted on door posts and lintel. • The song of Miriam (Ex 15:20) → Mary: intercession, enabling, song of victory ↔ the Magnificat. 	<p>Ex 14-15:21</p> <p>TGR 5-3 Q8 Acts 1:1-4</p> <p>TGR 5-3 Q12 CCC 1221 1Cor 10:1</p> <p>Ex 14:12 TGR 5-3 Q10</p> <p>B. Babu, Mary of Galilee, v II, p 106</p>

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1. "Could anyone be such a fool as to suppose that the sacrificial offerings are necessary to God – that they are of any use to him? ' I said to the Lord, "You are my God, for you have need of my possessions" (Ps. 16:2). Thus, far from needing any cattle, or any other corruptible and earthly thing, we must believe that God does not need even the righteousness of man; and that it is man, not God, who is benefited by all the worship which is rightly offered to God" (St. Augustine, City of God, X.5.5).
2. Passover establishes an accurate prefiguration of Christ's passion on the cross:

Ex. 12	Fulfillment in the NT
The Preparation of Passover (12:6)	"Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon" (Jn 19:14)
The lamb will be slaughtered at dusk (12:6)	"It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land* until three in the afternoon (Lk 23:44)
The assembled congregation of Israelites (12:6)	"Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." (1Cor 10:17)
A one-year old lamb without blemishes (12:5)	Jesus' died at the prime of his life. "These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.'" (Jn 19:36)
Slaughtered (12:6)	Jesus is slaughtered on the cross.
The blood from the lamb (12:7)	The Lamb of God (Jn 1:36) poured out for many Mt 26:28)
Dipping the hyssop in the lamb's blood (12:22)	So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. (Jn 19:29)
On Door Posts and Lintel of the House (12:7)	The Cross
Foreigners are not allowed to partake in this ritual (12:43)	"For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgement against themselves. (1Cor 11:29)