

group Bible Study – October 24, 2007

Read Exodus Chapters 12-16

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As you read these chapters of Exodus this week, put yourself in the shoes of the Israelites. What would it have felt like to set out on a dangerous journey and not really know the path or the destination before you left?

The truth is, we are on a journey every bit as perilous and hopeful. The Spirit of the living God has called us out and set us on a road that leads to the New Creation of all things—the kingdom of God. We are on a journey to this Promised Land, and we rely on manna from heaven to feed us along the way: the Spirit who works in us and between us is the source of our hope for God's kingdom, and the Spirit of Christ is our bread for the journey. Our big brother has gone on before us, and we hear his voice even now.

This week, may the prayer of our heart be the words that we have spoken together tonight:

**Holy God, you are faithful. You do what you promise.
We are weak, and often we do not trust your plans for us.
We fear. We hate. We fail.**

**But you speak to us in Scripture,
And your Spirit tells us that we are safe.
We are yours.
You hold us in your hand.
You go before us.
You will not fail.**

**We surrender ourselves to you.
We receive the bread of life that you offer.
We welcome your Spirit among us.**

**We will travel with you to where you are leading us:
The kingdom of God, our hope and our home.**

**In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Amen.**

Study Questions (for individuals or small groups):

- In Exodus 12, God commands the people to remember the Passover forever by observing a particular ritual every year. Why was this necessary? What are the holy rituals that we observe in our lives today? Why?
- If the Spirit of God has been given to us as a sign and promise of the coming kingdom, in what ways do you think we see the Spirit at work in our lives and communities today?