



What marks your doorframe?

READ EXODUS 13:3-8

For 400 years the Israelites had been slaves in Egypt. That is the story that defines them until God writes a new chapter. God sends Moses to tell Pharaoh to set the people free. But the Pharaoh isn't convinced until the last of several plagues hits Egypt, resulting in the death of many Egyptian sons.

Unraveling like a modern-day suspense movie, the story tells us how the Israelites spread the blood of sacrificed lambs or goats on their doorframes, marking themselves as God's people. They make a feast, but they eat it with their walking sticks in hand, ready to leave Egypt and slavery at any moment. Even their bread must be made without yeast, as there is no time to let it rise.

Yet despite all this intrigue and drama, God knows it will be easier to get the people out of slavery than it will be to get slavery out of the people. God changes the people's circumstances in a single night, but it takes a lot longer to change their story from abused, deprived and forsaken to blessed, beloved and free. Telling and re-telling this story helps them (and us!) remember how God, with great love, frees them (and us!) from slavery.

REMEMBER: Exodus 13:3

*So Moses said to the people,
"This is a day to remember forever—the day
you left Egypt, the place of your slavery."*

NEXT WEEK: Exodus 32:1-14

CHARACTER

DAY 1: What story does the world tell you about you? Does it tell you that you only matter if you're the right size and shape, have the right talents, live in the right neighborhood, have the right amount of money, and own the right stuff? Why? Is that story about slavery or freedom?

LOVE

DAY 2: Does God tell you a different story? Is it about slavery or freedom? Is the Exodus story about obedience, death and yeast? Or is it about a God who relentlessly pursues and loves God's people, generation after generation? Is the Exodus story about slavery or freedom?

WONDER

DAY 3: Why are these stories important? How do they tell us who we are? How do we know if they're true? Why do we pass them on? How can they change us, and others?

PROGRESS

DAY 4: What stories are communities of faith writing in the world today? Are Christians known as inclusive and loving, or has our identity been co-opted by extreme politics and the press? Why? What would it take for us to tell our own story? What needs to change in order for that to happen?

PROGRESS

DAY 5: What story is your faith community writing? What marks your doorframe? How can the decisions you make today tell the story about God's work in and through your life? How are you writing a story about a dynamic church moving forward into more inclusion and grace? Are you ready to move forward, or are you waiting for something? What holds you back? Can stories about your faith community's past risks and courage lead you forward?

RELATIONSHIP

DAY 6: How will you invest in your campus to facilitate your vision so that you can bless the generations to come? What is your legacy? What can you create now that will engage people decades later? How can you make sure that others will hear God's story, and know who they are, and be set free?

PROGRESS

DAY 7: How do you think our children will mark our doorframe? What stories will future generations tell?