

Oct 17, 2021 – Small Group Questions – Leader's Guide

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-17

1. Paul connects the Jewish story of the Exodus with Christian baptism. What is the connection between the two and how did Paul make that connection? (Hint: Jesus was the first to make the connection)

The Exodus marks the decisive event of God's complete redemption of Israel through the Red Sea by the man Moses. This serves as the type or analogy of the ultimate Exodus wrought by the Man Jesus Christ who completes a greater redemption of humanity from sin and death. Jesus connects the Exodus and baptism when He celebrated the Passover and connects His own death with the Passover bread and wine, signifying His paschal sacrifice as the final plague and judgement against evil.

2. Christian baptism signals the decisive event of the baptized person's rescue from sin and death by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is now a matter of living out and into that baptismal identity in time and space. In what ways do we as Christians live out and live into our baptism?

One way we live out and into our baptism is by celebrating communion. It rehearses and reminds us the Gospel. For one thing, communion exercises the movement of reconciliation. It unites a community of diverse peoples to be at peace and harmony with each other. When Christians are together around a table to share a meal, it signals peace and welcome for all. But if we bicker and fight and hate one another, it is a contradiction and hypocritical to celebrate communion while maintaining judgement against one another. And so, living into our baptism would mean, for example, that we forgive each other and be at peace with one another. In other words, our lifestyle, attitudes, and behaviour must accord with the virtues and values of communion/baptism.

3. Paul exhorts us to flee from idolatry, meaning that our exodus from sin and death is an ongoing and continual endeavour and discipline. Paul then brings up communion as participation in Jesus' Body and Blood. How does communion relate to "fleeing from idolatry"?

As Israel ate the manna and drank from the rock, that signaled their departure from Egypt. They were no longer being nourished by the provision of Egypt but are being nourished by a different source of food and drink, from God's hands. Similarly, being nourished by communion signals that we belong to a different source of strength and provision: from Jesus. This means that we are detaching from this world, our flesh, from sin as our source or identity and attaching ourselves to Jesus Christ, who is our bread and wine, true food and drink for our souls and bodies. Celebrating communion then is an act of fleeing from false idols and running to and pursuing the true God.

4. Communion keeps reminding us visually and physically our baptism in Jesus. How does the movements, the ritual actions, the story retold, the eating and drinking, the prayers of communion form and teach us to be people of our baptism?

Communion retells the story of the Gospel: the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. Anything that is rehearsed regularly would ideally form in us a good habit and rhythm in life. Being people who regularly is not forgetting the Gospel or is regularly remembering and celebrating the Gospel in Jesus becomes a people with a habit of transformation, of new exodus, of people running from sin and false idols, and pursuing God and His kingdom. This means, that we become people who are taking seriously our baptism.