OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) We are guilty before God because we worship creation instead of God the Creator. How did the gods of Egypt illustrate this? What created things are you tempted to worship above God?

b) Often we worship the thing that we fear the most, and then make an idol of it so we can control it (like the Egyptians worshiped death – Anubis the god of death, mummies, pyramids, etc.). Can you identify where your fears have become the thing you worship or exalt? In what way are your idols an attempt to manage your fears?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) In the sermon, we looked at six truths about God: God fights for our holiness (plagues); God's justice demands death for sinners; God requires a representative sacrifice (firstborn); God will accept a substitute sacrifice (lamb); God's wrath is satisfied by the blood of the sacrifice; God can pass over sins because of the blood of the substitute.

Which of these truths stands out to you? Surprises you? Comforts you? Frustrates you?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Can you explain substitutionary atonement? Why do we need a substitute? Why can only Jesus be our substitute (think about his humanity and his divinity).

b) Read Exodus 12:13. God says "when I see the blood I will pass over you." What things besides the blood of Christ do you use to try to gain forgiveness/cleansing/absolution? Do you struggle to believe that all of your sins are forgiven? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

a) One of the main applications from the Passover story is that we need to remember what God has done for us in Christ. What are some specific ways you can remember your salvation? How can you talk about it with your family/household/friends (12:26)?

FIGHTER VERSES: Hebrews 11:24-26.

PRAYER

- Thank God that he hates our sin and fights for our holiness.
- Confess ways that you have turned your fears into idols.
- Thank Jesus for his substitutionary atonement by his blood.
- Ask God to help you to continuously remember your salvation.