



WELCOME TO MY WORLD STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 3 - FEBRUARY 9, 2019

GROW, BABY, GROW!

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 12:14-15, 17

Reflections: In this week's sermon, we read how Jesus compared the kingdom of God to yeast (leaven). A substance commonly used in baking, yeast causes breads to rise through fermentation. A very small amount of yeast can make an entire batch of new dough rise (cf. Gal. 6:9). Once the process is started, it cannot be stopped.

In ancient bread making, a piece of dough would ferment (sour) and then be added to a new lump of dough the following day to cause it to rise. In essence, each lump of dough would receive its souring from the first lump of dough that was leavened a long time ago. Sin is like yeast. Like the original soured lump of dough, the original sin of Adam in the Garden is transmitted from generation to generation.

The pervasiveness of yeast was used in the Old Testament to represent sin or evil. The first instance of this is found in Exodus 12:

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD – a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel... Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was

on this very day that I brought your division out of Egypt." - Exodus 12:14-15, 17

Every year Israel was to celebrate the Passover and God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt. This celebration, known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread, followed the Passover (14th day of the 1st month on the Jewish calendar). During this week, the Israelites were to remove yeast from their homes and diets as a representation of sin. Its removal symbolized how Israel received freedom from the corruption of sin before a holy God through the safety of shed blood, a foreshadowing of Christ's shed blood.

In His teaching ministry, Jesus continued this theme of using yeast as a symbol for sin. On three different occasions He compares it to the false teaching and sin of the Pharisees and Sadducees. He knew that the pervasive nature of their teaching would have destructive consequences, just like yeast.

Jesus also uses yeast in a positive light when He compares it to the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus taught that the Kingdom, like yeast, was impossible to stop. It would "rise" or grow throughout the entire world and in a person's life.

This is a promise to us. God is working in this world. The kingdom is growing! Like yeast, this growth takes time and is often invisible, happening within people's hearts by changing attitudes, desires, and motives. Eventually it becomes visible but it takes time. So, have faith! Though you might not see it, God is at work in this world and in you!

Prayer Thought:

Lord, it's hard to see in the midst of the brokenness of this world and my life that you are at work. Give me eyes to see as you see and the faith to trust that you are at work.

Application Question

How do you see your faith growing?

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Why the emphasis on yeast during the Passover and The Feast of Unleavened Bread?
2. Why would Jesus switch the Bible's narrative on yeast and use it in a positive light in Matthew 13:33?
3. In what ways do you see the Kingdom of Heaven growing in this world? In you?
4. How should our certainty about the future change the decisions that we make today?

Suggestions for Further Research:

For page: [.gotquestions.org/parable-leaven.html](https://www.gotquestions.org/parable-leaven.html)