

The Passover

Teacher Pep Talk: You are going to teach about The Passover! How wonderful! This is one of the most poignant stories in the Old Testament, and it also foretells of the coming of Jesus and of His death on the cross. Little Guys will pick up the tie in with the Gospel story long before some adults will. You are in for a treat with this lesson!

Passover is still celebrated today by those of the Jewish faith. This event, coinciding with the 10th Plague, marked the evening that the children of Israel were finally brought out of slavery in Egypt. On the night of the Passover, God delivered His people out of bondage and started them on their journey toward the Promised Land.

[NOTE: For more information on the Ten Plagues, please see Lesson #3.]

You will need: Bible
Other items depending on the activities chosen

Major Points: God Would Send One Last Plague on Egypt
The Firstborn Child in Each Family Would Die
But God Intervened for His People (the Israelites)
Passover Lamb was Slain
Blood on Top and Sides of Doorframe
God Passed Over the Houses with the Blood
The Israelites Left Egypt!

Scripture Ref: Exodus 12:1-40

Memory Verse: Exodus 12:13 "...when I see the blood, I will pass over you."

Lesson: **God Would Send One Last Plague on Egypt**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available.]*
- God's people (the children, and grandchildren and great-great-great-great-great grandchildren of a man named Israel) had been in slavery in Egypt for 400 years. *(That's a long time!)*
- God had promised that He was going to bring His people out of Egypt and send them to a new land... a Promised Land.
- And NOW...finally... finally... finally... it was time.
- God had already sent 9 plagues on Egypt, because the ruler of Egypt (Pharaoh) would NOT let God's people go.
- And NOW God was going to send one last plague...one that was worse than all the other plagues had been.
- God said that after this plague... they would let His people go.

The Firstborn Child in Each Family Would Die

- But what could be so bad? They had already had 9 plagues
- They'd had flies and gnats, and sores and boils, and hail and darkness, and this and that...
- And NONE of those things had been bad enough for Pharaoh to let God's people go.
- So... What was there left for God to do to them?
- Are you ready? (Because it is very sad...)
- The 10th plague was that the firstborn child in each family would die... (*Wow! That is REALLY terrible. Can you imagine?*)
- The firstborn child, in every family, would die... all over Egypt.
- All in one night!

But God Intervened for His People (the Israelites)

- This was a terrible, awful, scary thing.
- And the people of God (the children of Israel) KNEW that this terrible, awful, scary thing was going to happen.
- They did NOT want it to happen to them!
- But God intervened for His People.
- God gave them a way to avoid this plague.
- God told them exactly what to do to keep anyone in their household from dying.

Passover Lamb was Slain

- God gave His people instructions about what to do
- They were to get a lamb (or small goat) for each family
- They were to take care of it in their home for 2 weeks
- Then they were to slaughter the lamb at twilight (evening)
- And they were to roast it and eat it that night as they waited for the LORD to release them from slavery
- But that is not all that they were supposed to do...

Blood on Top and Sides of Doorframe

- When they slaughtered the lamb, they were to take some of its blood and place it on the top and both sides of the doorframes of the house where they would eat the meal.
- That night they were to stay in the house where they ate.
- God said that the blood would be sign for them on the houses where they were.
- God said, "I will see the blood, and pass over you."
- Because the blood of the Passover Lamb was on the door of the house, the people inside would not die.
- [*You may choose to show how the lamb's blood represents Jesus' blood, either now or after the lesson. See Activities.*]

God Passed Over the Houses with the Blood

- That night God passed through Egypt
- Everywhere God saw the blood on the doorposts, He passed over that house
- But in every home where there was no blood on the door, the destroyer (destroying angel) killed the firstborn child
- The 10th plague killed every firstborn child in Egypt that night.
- But in the homes of the children of Israel, no one died.
- Whoever had obeyed God's command and put the lamb's blood on their doorframes, the LORD passed over them and they were safe in their homes.

The Israelites Left Egypt

- What do you think happened next? (*Wait for answers.*)
- What happened when all the Egyptians suddenly realized that someone in their house was dead? (They cried... They were sad... They went to tell other people... But all the people, who they went to tell, had someone dead in their house too!)
- The Bible says that, "...there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead." Exodus 12:30
- All of a sudden, the Egyptians realized it was another plague.
- They wanted the Israelites (God's people) to leave!!!
- Otherwise they thought they might all die.
- They sent the Israelites out of Egypt that night (while it was still dark!)
- And so the children of Israel (the Israelites) left Egypt!
- God had brought His people out of slavery in Egypt.
- Just as He had promised.
- Now, they would head towards the Promised Land.

Let's pray and thank God that He always keeps His promises!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you always keep your promises.
Thank you for saving your people.
Thank you that you love us.
We love you back.
Amen

Suggested Activities: (*Choose 1-2 that you think will work well with your group.*)

Learn the Bible Verse – *Children will learn the memory verse for today.*

Repeat verse with the children and do the accompanying hand motions.

"When I see the blood..." (Put right hand over eyes as if looking into distance)

"I will pass over you." (Make sweeping motion over head with left hand)

Gospel Message Tie-In – The children will learn how the story of the Passover Lamb foreshadows the Gospel Story of Jesus' death for us on the cross. [NOTE: You may choose to do this activity either during the formal lesson or during the activity period.]

Before Class: Determine how you will represent a doorway from ancient Egypt in your classroom. Some suggestions include: Use a chalkboard to draw a doorway; Have a large sheet of paper onto which you draw a doorway with markers; Or cut out long strips of brown paper to create a picture of a doorway on the wall. You will also need something with which you can represent the "blood" of the Passover Lamb. Suggestions include: water based paint (such as Tempera Paint), red markers, chalk, crayons etc. Remember to bring in drop cloths, towels, rags, etc to keep the rest of the room clean.

During Class: Tell the children that the story of the Passover Lamb also paints a picture of something very important that happened later. It is a story that tells about how Jesus came and died for us on the cross.

Have the children sit in front of your representation of the doorway. Point out the parts of the doorframe (the top and the sides.) Remind them that in the story the people were to slaughter the lamb. The Bible says that they were to save some of the blood (in a bowl), take some of the blood out on a hyssop branch, and then put it on the top and sides of the doorframe.

Stand in front of your picture of the doorway. Use your brush to take some of the red paint from the bowl and put it on the **top** of the doorframe. Explain that if you were doing that with a hyssop branch instead of a paintbrush some of the blood would have dripped down onto the **ground**. Put a little red paint on the "ground" under the center of the doorframe. Then put paint on **one side** of the doorframe, and then the **other side**. Let the children look at the picture for a minute. Ask them what they see.

The motion you made while putting the red paint on the doorframe was **like a cross**. First you put red at the top, which dripped to the bottom; then you went from one side to another, creating the basic shape of a cross. Draw a cross in the doorframe with a pencil, so that they can see it better. This was a picture of things that were to come.

When Jesus died on the cross, the people put a crown of thorns on His head, and pierced His hands and His feet. The places on the doorframe with the blood look similar to where His wounds would have been on the cross.

When the Israelites put their faith in God and placed the blood of the Passover Lamb on their doorframes, they were saved. They didn't face judgment like the rest of Egypt. When we put our faith in Jesus (and what He did for us on the cross) we don't face judgment anymore. God sees Jesus' blood, which was shed for us, and we are saved; just like when He saw the Passover Lamb's blood and the Israelites were saved.

The children of Israel were brought out of slavery in Egypt that night, and when we believe in Jesus we are brought out of slavery to sin. – *Talk about these things with the children as you feel led.*

Passover Doorways – *The children will recreate the Passover doorways*

Before Class: You may choose to do this activity by using the provided Activity Sheet. If so, provide a copy of the sheet for each child, along with crayons or markers. **OR** you may choose to allow the children to create their own doorway with paper and brown strips of construction paper. If so, provide 3 narrow strips of brown construction paper and sheet of paper for each child. Provide glue and markers (or paint and brushes.) If using paints, provide old shirts or aprons for the children to wear and cover the tables with newspaper/ tablecloth. NOTE: *If possible, hang the papers up with tape, etc for the children to add the paint to their doorways. If you do so, be sure to cover the floor!*

During Class: Explain that you are each going to recreate a doorway like the ones the children of Israel had in Egypt on the Passover night. Give each child a piece of paper and 3 strips of brown paper (2 long and 1 short). Have them recreate a doorframe on their paper, by gluing down the brown strips. When dry enough, hang up the papers, and allow the children to put red watercolor paint on the top and sides of the doorframe. [See Gospel Message Tie-In Activity for teaching ideas.]

Seder Meal – *The children will pretend to have a Passover Meal (or Seder).*

Before Class: Bring to class items you will need to recreate a Passover Meal (called the Seder.) You will need large pieces of cloth to make “cloaks” like the Israelites wore on that night. Also you will need a large table in your room (consider 2 card tables with a tablecloth on top.) And you will need some things to eat. Suggestions for food items include: pita bread and hummus, Cheez-It crackers and water, red Kool-Aid, or grape juice. *(If you would like to prepare traditional unleavened bread, there is a recipe below.)*

During Class: Explain to the children that you will recreate the meal the Israelites ate on the night they were delivered from slavery in Egypt. First “prepare the meal” together. Then you will do the following things... Just like the Israelite did on that evening.

Dress Up – Put on pieces of fabric for cloaks.

Stand Up – Move the chairs to the side of the room and stand at the table.

Eat Up – Eat the “meal” you prepared together.

Talk about that while they were eating their meal that night, God went through Egypt and, when He saw the blood on the doorframes of their houses, He passed over them. The firstborn children in their homes did not die that night, like in the Egyptian homes. Discuss that the Jewish people (the descendants of Israel) still celebrate the Passover today to remember what God did for them on that night so long ago.

Unleavened Bread Recipe

2 cups flour

1 tsp salt

1 T sugar

1 T olive oil

2/3 cups water (approximately)

Mix together the dry ingredients. Add the olive oil and enough water until the dough forms a ball (not so much that it's sticky.) Knead the dough briefly. Allow the dough to set for 10 minutes. Form into a long roll. Cut off small sections (10-12). Roll each section flat. Cook one at a time in a pan on the stove until done (light brown in spots.) *You may need to use a little butter or oil in the pan, if you don't use a non-stick pan.*

