

The Passover

(Exodus 11 - 12)

Introduction

Suppose you were told that a terrible storm was coming — one that could destroy everything in its path — but you were given some simple instructions that were guaranteed to protect you if you would follow them exactly. Would you follow those instructions? Sure, you would! You would be foolish not to accept the one way that would protect you from destruction by the storm.

The Bible tells us that the Hebrews faced one terrible night of suffering and destruction far worse than any storm. If they would follow certain instructions they would be delivered from that which was going to happen and be set free from a cruel king who wanted them for his slaves. It began in Egypt with a message from God to Pharaoh.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, open the eyes of our hearts this morning so that we might see You for Who You really are and so that we might fall madly in love with You this morning. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Lesson

We have been studying about how Moses was used by God to lead the children of Israel out of the bondage of slavery in Egypt. The Israelites were slaves suffering under the cruel Pharaoh.

You and I have never been slaves to a wicked king, but we are slaves in another way. Each of us is born with a sinful nature that keeps us under Satan's power. Sin is anything you think, say, or do that does not please God. When you lie to your parents, cheat on test or a game, or you are disobedient to your parents, you are showing that you are a slave to sin.

God hates your sin because He is holy, He's 100% perfect, and cannot have any sin in heaven. The punishment for sin is death — the kind of death that means you will be separated from God forever. God's word says that all sin must be punished. But God wants to free us from the bondage of our sin, just as He wanted to free the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt.

God sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians. He used the plagues to teach both the Egyptians and the children of Israel that He is our Almighty God, ruler of the universe. So far none of the previous nine plagues convinced Pharaoh to listen and obey God's command to let the children of Israel go.

Today we will learn about the final plague.

Tenth plague: the death of the firstborn

Exodus 11:1

*Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will strike Pharaoh and the land of Egypt with one more blow. After that, Pharaoh will let you leave this country. In fact, he will be so eager to get rid of you that **he will force you all to leave.**"*

God is saying here that the next plague will finally cause Pharaoh to drive the people out. In fact, the Egyptians will be so glad to see the Israelites leave, they will give them their silver and gold jewelry, and their clothing just to get rid of them!

Exodus 11:2

Tell all the Israelite men and women to ask their Egyptian neighbors for articles of silver and gold."

Exodus 12:35-36

And the people of Israel did as Moses had instructed; they asked the Egyptians for clothing and articles of silver and gold. (36) The LORD caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the Israelites, and they gave the Israelites whatever they asked for. So they stripped the Egyptians of their wealth!

Exodus 11:4-5

Moses had announced to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: At midnight tonight I will pass through the heart of Egypt. All the firstborn sons will die in every family in Egypt, from the oldest son of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the oldest son of his lowliest servant girl who grinds the flour. Even the firstborn of all the livestock will die.

Can you imagine such a scary night? But God gave Moses and Aaron instructions for the children of Israel to follow so they would be safe from the coming destruction.

1st Instruction: Perfect Male Lamb

Exodus 12:5

*The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with **no defects**.*

God told Moses to instruct each family to choose a perfect lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice—one that had no imperfections.

2nd Instruction: Blood on the doorframe

Exodus 12:7

They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal.

They were to kill the lamb and paint its blood on the door posts and across the top frame.

The lamb had to be killed in order to get the blood that would protect them. In killing the lamb, the Israelites shed innocent blood. The lamb was a sacrifice, a substitute for the person who would have died in the plague. From this point on the Hebrew people would clearly understand that for them to be spared from death, an innocent life had to be sacrificed in their place.

3rd Instruction: Bitter Herbs and Unleavened Bread

Exodus 12:8

That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast.

The family was to bar-b-queue the lamb whole and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

They ate bitter herbs such as horseradish and parsley to remind them of the bitterness of slavery. [Teacher, bring some bitter herbs to class for the children to taste.]

They ate unleavened bread because they didn't have time to let their bread rise with yeast. They were in a hurry to leave.

4th Instruction: Be Ready

Exodus 12:11

"These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the LORD's Passover.

They were to eat fully dressed with their shoes on ready to leave at any moment.

5th Instruction: No Broken Bones

Exodus 12:46

Each Passover lamb must be eaten in one house. Do not carry any of its meat outside, and do not break any of its bones.

The family must stay within the house through the night. They were to eat the whole lamb and not break any of its bones.

The Significance of Passover to Christians

Now we are going to go back through these 5 instructions and see how they are a picture of Jesus.

1st Instruction: Perfect Male Lamb

God told Moses to instruct each family to choose a perfect lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice—one that had no imperfections.

The lamb is a picture of Jesus Christ, who was sinless; that is, without defects.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

2nd Instruction: Blood on the doorframe

They were to kill the lamb and paint its blood on the door posts and across the top frame.

This is a picture of the cross. As Jesus was nailed to the cross and pierced in His side, His blood spilled on the wooden cross. His blood is what paid the penalty of our sins and satisfies the Father's need to punish all sin.

... the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

In fact, ...without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)

3rd Instruction: Bitter Herbs and Unleavened Bread

The family was to bar-b-queue the lamb whole and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

The bitter herbs was a picture of the bitterness of slavery for the Israelites. For Christians, it is a picture of the bitterness of our sins, the penalty for which is death.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

They ate unleavened bread because they didn't have time to let their bread rise with yeast. (They were in a hurry to leave.)

[Teacher, hold up a Matzo cracker with stipes and piercings.]

Leaven (yeast) represents sin in our lives. Eating unleavened bread is a picture of how we need to remove sin from our lives.

Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us. (1 Corinthians 5:7)

4th Instruction: Be Ready

They were to eat fully dressed with their shoes on ready to leave at any moment. This is a picture of how we need to be ready and waiting for the Lord's return.

You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected." (Luke 12:40)

Jesus could return at any moment.

5th Instruction: No Broken Bones

The family must stay within the house through the night. They were to eat the whole lamb and not break any of its bones.

This is a picture of Christ's death when He died without breaking a bone.

It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. ³³But when they came to Jesus, they

saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. ³⁴One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. ³⁵(This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to believe.) ³⁶These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken," (John 19:31-36)

That Terrible Night

Now, let's read about that terrible night the death angel passed through Egypt. After Moses gave the people the instructions, he called the elders of Israel together and said...

Exodus 12:21-23

Then Moses called all the elders of Israel together and said to them, "Go, pick out a lamb or young goat for each of your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. ²²Drain the blood into a basin. Then take a bundle of hyssop branches and dip it into the blood. Brush the hyssop across the top and sides of the doorframes of your houses. And no one may go out through the door until morning. ²³For the LORD will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the LORD will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down.

God loved the Israelites and provided a way for them to escape the death penalty by applying the blood to the door frames. Not only would the blood of the lamb free them from death that night, but it would result in their freedom from slavery.

God loves you, too. He wants you to live with Him in heaven someday. That is why He has provided a way for you to be protected from the punishment of sin. Jesus, died on the cross and gave His life's blood for your sin. (Remember, without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.)

If you admit to God that you are a sinner, and believe that Jesus died on the cross to take your punishment, and you trust that He shed His blood for you, you can be saved from the punishment of your sin.

God told the people to celebrate Passover forever.

Exodus 12:24

Remember, these instructions are a permanent law that you and your descendants must observe forever.

Each year the people of Israel pause to give thanks to God for saving them from death and bringing them out of a land of slavery. They never want to forget how they had been protected from death by the blood and set free from their slavery.

As Christians, instead of celebrating Passover, we celebrate communion to remember that Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for us. It is a time to thank God for setting us free from the penalty of our sin.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, I believe that You died and were buried and placed in a sealed tomb. Three days later, Your tomb was found empty! You had risen from the dead, just as You said You would. That proved that the Father had accepted your payment for my sin.

You are alive today in heaven making a place ready for me! Thank You for dying on the cross and taking the punishment that I deserve. Thank You for making it possible for me to come and live with you in heaven. I wait anxiously for that day when I will be with You for ever more. In Jesus name, Amen.

Learning Activities

Activity

Have Communion with the children.

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

*...On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread
²⁴and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said,
 "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

[Hold up the Matzo and thank God for His broken body.]

1 Corinthians 11:25

*In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup
 is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement
 confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you
 drink it."*

[Hold up the cup and thank God for shedding His life blood.]

Game Center

"Who?" "What?" or "Where?" —

Before class, write several Who, What, and Where questions pertaining to the lesson. Cut a triangle, a square, and a circle in the bottom of a cardboard box. Make the openings big enough for a beanbag. Decorate the box and label the shapes "Who?," "What?," and "Where?"

When a child throws a beanbag through a shape he may select a card of the corresponding shape with a question to answer for points for his team.

Or, use the following review questions in another game:

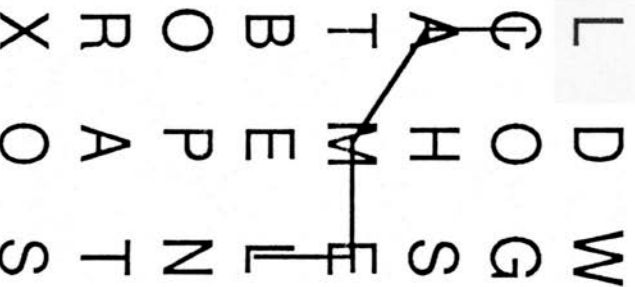
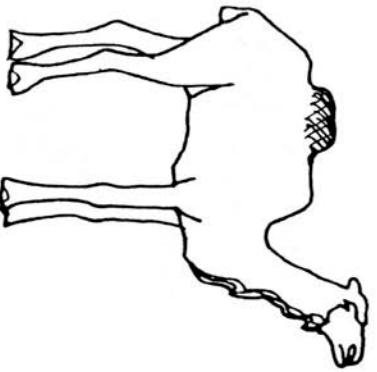
1. Who are we? We were brutal and whipped the Israeli workers to get them to work faster and wouldn't bring them any straw to make the bricks. (The taskmasters.)
2. Who are we? Pharaoh called us in to do miracles like Moses. (The magicians.)
3. Who am I? I'm the reason that the magicians could do miracles. (Satan.)
4. Who am I? I was Moses' brother. (Aaron.)
5. Who am I? I promised the people they would get out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (God.)
6. Who am I? I demanded that Moses and Aaron show me a miracle to prove that God was mighty in power. (Pharaoh.)
7. Who am I? I asked Pharaoh many times to let the Israelites go. (Moses.)
8. Where am I? I'm the place where the Israelites wanted to be. (The Promised Land.)
9. Where am I? I'm the place the children of Israel lived in Egypt. (Goshen)
10. Where am I? I am where Jethro and Zipporah are from. (Midian)
11. Where am I? I am where God spoke to Moses from the burning bush. (The mountain of God or Sinai.)
12. Where am I? I am the place the children of Israel came from. (Canaan or The Promised Land)
13. Where am I? I am the place God promised to give to Abraham's family. (Canaan or The Promised Land)

14. What am I? My blood was put on the door posts of all Israelite houses. (A lamb.)
15. What am I? Moses used me to show Pharaoh how powerful God is. (Moses' rod.)
16. What am I? I'm the thing the rod turned into. (A serpent.)
17. What am I? I'm the thing that helps develop your patience and character and teaches you to trust God. (Trials or Problems in life.)
18. What am I? I caused much sadness for the Egyptians when I came to their houses one night. (Death Angel.)

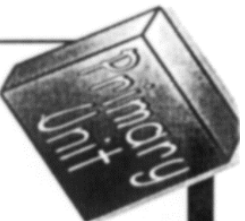
[For more expositional lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Preparing for a Journey

Ahira and his family are getting ready to leave Egypt. Ahira has to lead the family's animals. See how many animals you can find in this puzzle. What other things should they take on their trip?

camel

camel



Exodus Circles

GOD	ISRAEL	AARON	MOSES
☐ ☐ ☐	☐ ☐	☐	☐ ☐ ☐

Read the statements below. Put each number in a circle above under the correct name of the one who said or did it.

1. Sent Moses to free the slaves.
2. Told Pharaoh God's words.
3. Went with Moses to Egypt.
4. Sent plagues on the Egyptians.
5. Complained to Moses.
6. Told Israel not to fear.
7. Held his rod out over the water.
8. Protected the people from Pharaoh's army.
9. Crossed the sea on dry land.

