



LAST SUPPER

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U8#2 1st-3rd Grade • Mar.3, 2024

Concept

Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb.

Goal

Students will learn that Passover is a picture of the promised Messiah redeemer, Jesus the sacrificial lamb.

Passage

Luke 22:14-20

Key Verse: "... For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."

1 Corinthians 5:7

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Matzo, 3-4 pieces/class (vary depending on class size)</i> • <i>Clear plastic cup, 1/class</i> • <i>Salt (a few tablespoons per class) to mix with water</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Black dry erase marker</i> • <i>Red dry erase marker</i> <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1 piece of Matzo</i> • <i>1 napkin</i> • <i>CD & player</i> 	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is Passover?, The Story of Passover for Children, A Children's Haggadah</i> • <i>Or Adventure Bible Handbook, Children's Guide to the Bible, Robert Willoughby, International Children's Bible Handbook, Richards</i> • <i>"God's Perfect Plan" double-sided handout, 1/student</i> • <i>CD player</i> • <i>CD of Passover songs</i>

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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The morning of the Passover meal had arrived. Jesus sent the disciples to Jerusalem with instructions to prepare for the Passover, the celebration of the great exodus from Egypt, when the blood of a small lamb was spattered on the door posts and lintel. (See Exodus 12.) The Passover marked the Jewish New Year and was a time of beginnings for Israel, a time that marked a spiritual beginning for God's people. "On that horrendous night, some 1524 years previously, the pride and power of Egypt had been shattered. God's destroying angel had swept across the Land of the Nile. In every home where there was no blood of a sacrificed lamb splattered over the door, He swept in to bring death to the firstborn.

"Only the substitutionary death and sacrifice of an innocent, spotless lamb could [prevent] the drastic judgment and stay the sword of sacrifice. If it was not a firstborn lamb, then it had to be a firstborn son....No greater sacrifice could anyone offer than his firstborn son, the offspring of his own strength, the seed of his own loins.

"And on this auspicious night, in this very room, God's own firstborn Son, the only begotten of the Father, would declare Himself to be that supreme sacrifice: God's spotless Passover Lamb—the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world, the only Lamb which was appropriately capable of bearing away all the sins of all men for all time. Only He was able to be a suitable substitute for all of us." [1]

Jesus brought a new element into the traditional celebration of the Passover meal by instituting a New Covenant remembrance of what He was about to do. Breaking the bread and drinking of the wine were a prologue of the agony Jesus would have to endure. The broken bread is a picture of His body that would be mutilated, marred and abused by brutal men. The wine depicts His divine blood to be poured out for the sins of all men. No longer would the priests have to present blood to God on the Day of Atonement to cover the sins of the people. Jesus' blood would cover all sins for all time. Jesus is eternal life (John 14), and life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11).

[1] Keller, W. Phillip. Rabboni. Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1977, p. 228.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Wrap in a napkin and hide the piece of Matzo for the Game.

Activity Stations

- **Research Culture**

- **Instructions:** Put out the books, What is Passover?, The Story of Passover for Children, A Children's Haggadah Have a teacher look through / read a book/s to the students. Discuss the occasion and purpose of Passover. Ask students if they know what Passover has to do with Jesus.
- **Or:** Look in the Adventure Bible Handbook, pp. 38, 70, Children's Guide to the Bible, pp. 35, 85 and International Children's Bible Handbook, pp. 45, 62 for information on the Last Supper and Passover. What is the significance of each? How are they connected?

- **Music**

- **Instructions:** Listen to the provided CD of Passover songs.

- **Craft – God's Perfect Plan**

- **Instructions:** Give each student a printed sheet. Color red streaks on the doorposts and lintel. Color the other pictures as desired. Fold the paper along the two dotted lines. Fold the "crucifixion" section under the "God's Perfect Plan" section. As the paper is opened the front should be "God's Perfect Plan," the next picture should be "Crucifixion" and then the last to see is "Communion." As the students work ask them to tell you what each section means and how Passover, crucifixion and communion go together.

Introduction Lg. Group

Passover is a really big deal for Jewish people. The Jewish people from all over Israel went to Jerusalem every year for the Passover celebration. Have any of you ever been to a Passover seder? I'm going to read the words said as families begin the seder. (*Read p. 4, "Before We Begin," and p. 6, "Preparing for the Seder" from A Children's Haggadah.*)

By telling the story of the Passover each year, the Jews obey God, who says, "You shall tell the Passover story to your children in the days to come." The Bible, called Torah by the Jewish people, doesn't tell us exactly how it was to be celebrated. Typically though, there are at least five foods that go on the seder plate: a lamb shank bone, egg, bitter herbs (usually horseradish or romaine lettuce), vegetable (preferably parsley or celery), and sweet paste called Charoset. Along with this would be 3 Matzos (unleavened bread). We can lean in our chairs like those who celebrate Passover because long ago free people could lean on a pillow during their meals to relax and be comfortable while the Jewish slaves served them. When we lean in our chairs we are reminded that once the Jews were slaves, but now they are free.

Introduction Continued

Now, let's walk through what a typical seder meal would look like (they can act it out):

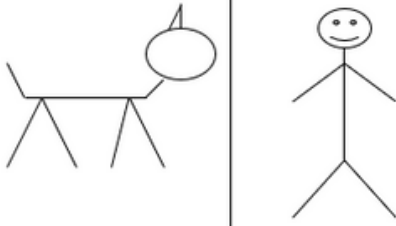
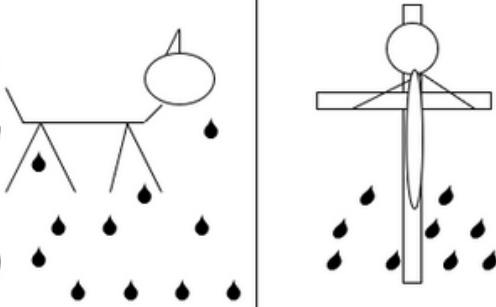
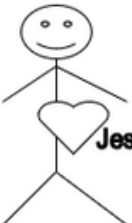
- Prayer: The seder begins with a prayer from the Old Testament and a sip of wine.
- Bitter herbs: They then dip bitter herbs into salt water and give thanks to God for all his blessings. When they taste the salt water, they remember the tears the Jews shed while they were slaves in Egypt. They eat the bitter herbs to remind themselves how bitter it is to be a slave. (Exodus 12:8.)
- The Four Questions: Because it is important for the children to learn and understand the Passover, the youngest child is chosen to ask the same 4 questions each year about why this night is different from all other nights. Then the head of the house answers the questions to help them understand what Passover is about.
- The Promise: They take another drink of wine to remember the promise God made to the people of Israel: "I will deliver you from slavery."
- The unleavened bread called Matzo is a reminder that their ancestors, in their hurry to leave Egypt, could not wait for bread to rise, and so removed them from the ovens while still flat (Exodus 12:34). Let's break the Matzo in three pieces. The top half I will break into pieces for each of you. They would spread a small amount of charoset on it, and put a sprig of parsley on top of the charoset. The charoset reminds them that the Jewish slaves worked very hard in Egypt. A very small amount of horseradish may go on top of the charoset to remember how bitter slavery is and how it can be sweetened by God's rescue.
- The lamb bone is a reminder that a perfect lamb was killed and its blood was spread on the two side posts and on the upper doorposts so the angel of death would pass over the Jewish homes. When God was ready to free the Jews from slavery in Egypt, He told Moses to have each family choose a perfect lamb. They were to slaughter the lamb, take some of the blood and put it on the doorframes of their houses. The angel of death would come and kill all the oldest sons in each household where there was no blood on the doorframes. When the angel of death killed Pharaoh's oldest son just as Moses told him would happen, Pharaoh told the Jews to leave Egypt.
- They take a third and fourth drink of wine and repeat Psalms of praise from the Old Testament.
- The seder ends with more praise to God and singing.

Instructions: As you make the correspondence with each aspect of the Passover, draw the suggested illustrations on each side of the white board.

Jesus and His twelve disciples arrived in Jerusalem for the Jewish Passover celebration.

Lesson Continued

The Bible tells us that the last night of Jesus' life on earth was the night of Passover. Jesus and His disciples had gathered in a room to celebrate Passover, something like we just did. Let's see why Jesus is called the Passover lamb.

PASSOVER LAMB = JESUS	
<p>At the time of the first Passover, each family selected a perfect lamb.</p>	 <p>John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God. Jesus, who lived a perfect life, is called the Passover lamb. "...For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." 1 Corinthians 5:7</p>
<p>The perfect lamb died, its blood was shed for each household.</p> <p>(drops of blood in red)</p>	 <p>The perfect man, Jesus, died, His blood shed for all the sins of all people for all time. (drops of blood in red)</p>
<p>It wasn't enough to kill the lamb. They had to put the blood around the door just as God told them. God passed over <u>only</u> those houses that had the blood around their door.</p> <p>(blood around door in red)</p>	<p>YOU</p>  <p>Jesus' shed blood does not count for us until we tell God we know we sin and want Him to forgive us. If we do that the Bible says, because Jesus' blood covers us, God will pass over and not judge our sins.</p>

Good News

When God sees the blood of Jesus, His judgment passes over those who have received the gift of forgiveness. Who can tell me what it means that "God's judgment passes over those who have received the gift of forgiveness?" Why does God judge people? I thought we weren't supposed to judge. What gives God the right to judge? That's right, God is perfect and we aren't. We disobey Him and His truth many times every day. We don't deserve to have a relationship with the perfect God who created us. The amazing thing is that even though we disobey God He always loves us. And He is always drawing us to Himself. Jesus died to take the punishment we deserve. When we admit we deserve His punishment and thank Jesus for shedding His blood to pay for our sins, we are totally forgiven and completely accepted by God.

Lesson Continued

Jesus told His disciples to remember His death by eating bread, a symbol of His body broken for us, and drinking wine, a symbol of His bloodshed for us. This is what we call communion and is the way Christians remember that Jesus died to save us from our sin. It is a time to celebrate together and think about God's great love. He loves us so much that He sent His son to die on the cross so that we can have a relationship with Him forever.

Transition

Let's get into small groups.

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

Discussion Questions:

- Why do Jewish people celebrate Passover, but Christians don't?
- Why is Jesus called our Passover lamb?
- Why do we need a Passover lamb?
- How do Christians celebrate Jesus?

Mission Prayer: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray together. Let's pray He will remind us of His faithful love and give us opportunities to tell others about Him.

Transition

Let's play a game for some fun.

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Game - Find the Afikomen

Instructions: Divide the students into pairs and have them hunt for the afikoman ("Afikoman" is the name of a portion of matzah eaten at the conclusion of the Passover evening meal known as the seder. In most traditions, early in the evening, the person conducting the seder breaks the middle of the three matzah into two pieces, putting away the larger portion, designated as afikoman, for consumption at the conclusion of the meal <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-afikoman>).

Play the Passover music while they search. The pair that finds it may eat it.

Transition

Read *The Story of Passover for Children*.