

The Passover

Big Idea *Jesus is the Lamb of God, whose blood saves us from death.*

Bible Passage *Exodus 12; Luke 22*

Lesson Summary

Jews have celebrated the Passover ever since God set them free from slavery in Egypt. In that first Passover, God told them to slaughter a lamb, put its blood on the doorposts, roast the lamb and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread, and eat their dinner in haste with their traveling clothes on. That night the Lord came and took the life of the firstborn in every household, but He “passed over” every household that had the blood of the lamb on the doorposts.

The night before His crucifixion, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples, knowing that the next day He would be the Lamb of God, sacrificed to take away the sins of the world. Christians know that special Passover meal as the Last Supper, and they follow Jesus’ instructions to take the bread and the cup in remembrance of Him.

Teacher Devotional

Dear Lord, Easter and the Passover are holy celebrations. Help me to understand more clearly than ever Your plan through Jesus’ death for my sins.

As my students consider the wondrous things that You have done for Your people, may You be glorified. Speak to these children through me about Your great love for them. In Jesus’ holy name, amen.

Make Disciples

Teacher—Decide where to place these elements into this lesson.

Opening Prayer

Thank God for “passing over” His people in Egypt, sparing their children from death. Thank God that through the sacrifice of His Son, we too are spared from death.

Pray that the children would understand the importance of Christ’s sacrifice for them.

KeyVerse

Topic: Our Passover

Reference: *1 Corinthians 5:7b*

Memorization Activity: Write three words on the board: Christ, Passover, sacrificed. Say the topic, reference, and verse, pointing to each of these words as you say them. Have the children repeat with you, and then erase these words, leaving only the first letter of each word on the board. Say the verse again, pointing to each letter as you say the verse.



DISCIPLE TARGETS In this lesson, your children will...

KNOWLEDGE (truths)

- K** • At the Passover Feast, God’s people remembered how He rescued them from slavery in Egypt.
- N** • The Passover meal includes lamb, bitter herbs, and unleavened bread.
- O** • Jesus’ last meal with His disciples was a Passover meal.
- W** • Jesus is their Passover Lamb.

CHARACTER (emotions)

- F** • Moved as they consider Jesus’ last meal with His disciples.
- E** • Thankful that Jesus was willing to die for them.

E
L

CONDUCT (actions)

- D** • Find the answer to a Passover question in a word puzzle.
- O** • Connect symbols with the corresponding holiday.
- Memorize 1 Corinthians 5:7b.

Spark Interest

Teacher—Choose one activity that will involve students and grab their attention.

The Passover (10 minutes)

This discussion connects Easter and the Passover. **Supplies:** calendar

Boys and girls, we are celebrating an important Christian holiday today. Who can tell me what it is? Invite a response. Why do we celebrate Easter? Let children mention the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every year in spring when we celebrate Easter, the Jews celebrate one of their most special holidays. Does anyone know what it is? The Passover. It's the holiday when the Jews remember how God brought them out of slavery in Egypt. Which holiday do you think has been around longer? The Passover.

Open the calendar and point to this year's dates for celebrating Easter and the Passover. Today we will find out why Easter and Passover are celebrated at the same time.

Disciple Guide—page 1

Help kids with the puzzle that spells "The Last Supper."

Explore Scripture

Teacher—Teach the Bible lesson. Include exercises from the student Disciple Guides.

Passage

Supplies: fresh parsley sprigs, Jewish matzoh (or other crackers), and a "last supper" cup to show at the right times in the story

The Jews started celebrating the Passover in the time of Moses, right after God rescued them from slavery in Egypt. You see, for four hundred years the Jews had been slaves in Egypt—but God had a plan to set them free. It started with Moses, whose mother put him in a basket in the Nile River when he was a baby. When Moses grew up, God sent him to the Pharaoh, the king

of Egypt, to say, "Let my people go!" But the Pharaoh said, (pause to let the children say it) "No!"

God sent the Egyptians all kinds of troubles to help Pharaoh change his mind, like thousands of frogs, billions of flies, blisters on their skin, and hail from the sky. But did Pharaoh let the Israelites go? (Pause.) "No!"

Finally God told Moses, "Tell the people of Israel that I have one more plague for the Egyptians, and that tonight the Pharaoh won't say no. He will say, (pause) 'Yes!' But the Israelites must obey My words to be saved. Each family must take a perfect, spotless young lamb and kill it. They should put the lamb's blood on the top and sides of their door. Then they should roast the meat and eat it all with bitter herbs. Show the parsley. They should make flat, plain bread because they won't have time to make fluffy bread with yeast. Show the crackers. The Israelites should eat this meal with their coats and shoes on and their bags all packed and ready to go.

"Tonight I will pass through Egypt and make the oldest child die in every house. But when I see a house with

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The Passover

Cross out the letters W, X, Y, and Z in the puzzle to discover the special name for this last meal Jesus ate with His disciples.

W	X	T	H	Y
E	Z	L	W	A
X	S	T	Y	Z
S	W	U	P	X
P	Y	E	R	Z

T **h** **e** **L** **a** **s** **t**

S **u** **p** **p** **e** **r**

What do you like to eat on Easter?



the lamb's blood on the doorposts, I will know that the people in that house love Me and obey Me. I will not kill anyone in that house!"

So the Israelites did exactly as God said, and that night, when God passed through Egypt, the Israelites were safe. But many Egyptians died, and the Pharaoh finally said, "Go! Get out of here! Do not stay here one more day!"

The Israelites left Egypt. They were free! And every year since then, the Israelites, now called the Jews, celebrate this great miracle.

Many years later, when Jesus was about thirty-three years old, He was in Jerusalem with His disciples, and it was time for this Passover celebration. He told Peter and John, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us, so we can eat it together."

Jesus and His disciples didn't have a regular house since they traveled all the time, so Peter and John asked Jesus, "Where can we prepare it?"

Jesus told them, "When you enter Jerusalem, a man

carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, a large room is set up for us. Prepare the Passover there."

So Peter and John went and found everything just like Jesus said, and they prepared the meal. They bought a perfect little lamb and cooked it for dinner. They also made special bread without yeast and bought bitter herbs.

When it was time for dinner, Jesus and His disciples did what every Jewish family did that night across the land. They told the story of the Passover. They talked about how each family had put the blood of a perfect lamb on their door, and how God had passed over the Israelite houses when He saw the blood of the lamb.

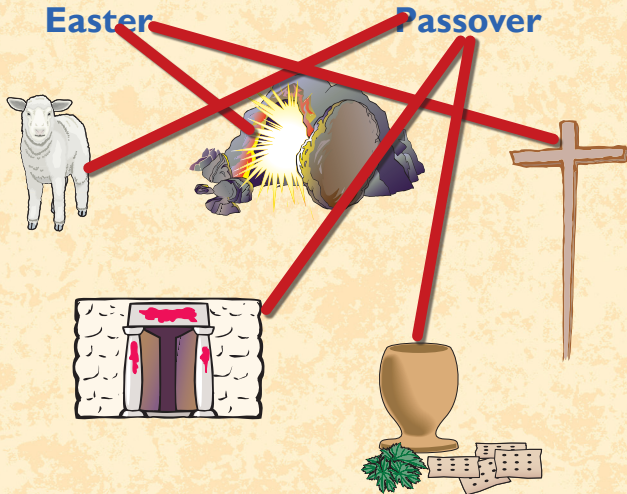
Jesus knew that He was the Lamb of God, and He knew that the very next day He would be killed, just like that Passover lamb, and His blood would save His people. How do you think Jesus felt as He shared this Passover meal with His friends? Invite responses.

Then according to the Passover custom, Jesus broke the unleavened bread and gave it to His disciples. Break some matzoh. But this time, Jesus didn't say the usual Passover words about the bread. Instead Jesus said, "This is My body, broken for you." The disciples were very surprised to hear those words at the Passover meal! And when they drank, He didn't talk about the ten plagues in Egypt. Jesus said something very different: (Raise the cup.) "This cup shows God's promise to save you with My blood."

After dinner, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn praising God for rescuing them. Then they went to the Mount of Olives to pray. And you know what happened next. Judas brought the Jewish leaders and they arrested Jesus. He was mocked, stripped, beaten, and killed on a cross for our sins the very next day. And Jesus rose from the dead three days later. He was our Passover Lamb!

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Draw lines to match the symbols to Passover or Easter or both.



A Special Passover Exodus 12



Why do you think God allowed His Son, Jesus, to be killed during the Passover?

answers will vary



Disciple Guide—page 2

Go through the list of symbols and let the children draw lines to match the symbols to Passover or Easter, or both. Be sure to save time to discuss the HeartBeat question.

Inspire Action

Teacher—Choose one activity that will encourage learners to apply the Bible truth to their lives.

Symbols (5-10 minutes)

Go through the list of symbols on page 2 of the workbook page, and let the children draw lines to match the symbols to Passover or Easter, or both. Be sure to save time to discuss the HeartBeat question.

Closing Prayer

Pray that the truth of today's lesson would move the hearts of the children and change their lives. Pray that Easter would take on new meaning for them today as they realize the great sacrifice and gift of God's Son.

Pray for the personal requests of students. Encourage children to voice their prayer concerns. Be sure to pray for each one.

Additional Activities

Passover Knapsack (10 minutes)

This craft activity reinforces the story of Passover. **Supplies:** a circle of cloth for each person and string to tie it into a knapsack

Inside the knapsack children will place items that symbolize the Passover such as a piece of cracker (unleavened bread), a sprig of parsley or other herb, a lamb cut out of paper with a cotton ball glued on to make it fluffy, and a craft stick with the end painted red to represent the blood on the doorposts. Have the children "practice" explaining the symbols to each other.

Wordless Jellybeans (10 minutes)

This demonstration activity helps kids practice the Gospel message.

Supplies: jelly beans, plastic eggs

If you are familiar with the Wordless Book or the colored bead bracelets that present the Gospel, you can do the same with colored jellybeans. Put one jellybean of each of the following colors

into a plastic egg for each student (make one extra for demonstration): yellow, black, red, white, and green. First, hold up the yellow jellybean (pretend it's gold) and explain that heaven, where the streets are paved with gold, is a free gift. (Let the children eat each jellybean after you explain it.) Next, hold up the black jellybean and explain that we can't go to heaven because our hearts are black with sin. The third jellybean, red, represents Christ's blood shed for us on the cross. The fourth, white, represents how our sins are washed as white as snow when we trust Christ and receive His forgiveness. The fifth jellybean, green, reminds us that we must continue to grow after we become Christians.

Resurrection Eggs (minutes)

This toy explains Easter. **Supplies:** Resurrection Egg sets

Available from Christian bookstores, Resurrection Eggs are a carton of one dozen colored plastic eggs. Inside each egg is a symbol of the Easter story, such as a small crown of thorns or a nail. The set includes a booklet explaining how to use the eggs to present the Easter story.

Easter Story Cookies (15 minutes)

This snack highlights the Resurrection.

Easter Story cookies, or "empty tomb" cookies, are meringue cookies made with egg whites, vinegar, salt, sugar, and nuts or chocolate chips. The cookies sit in the oven overnight, and in the morning they come out hollow on the inside, like an empty tomb. To do this during class, make a batch the night before, and bring another set of ingredients to class, prepare them, and put in the oven. The recipe and illustrations, which are somewhat lengthy, can be found by searching the Internet for "Easter Story Cookies." Several versions of the recipe are available.

SUPPLIES

General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guides
Pencils, markers, crayons
Paper, scissors, tape, glue

Make Disciples

None

Spark Interest

•THE PASSOVER: calendar

Explore Scripture

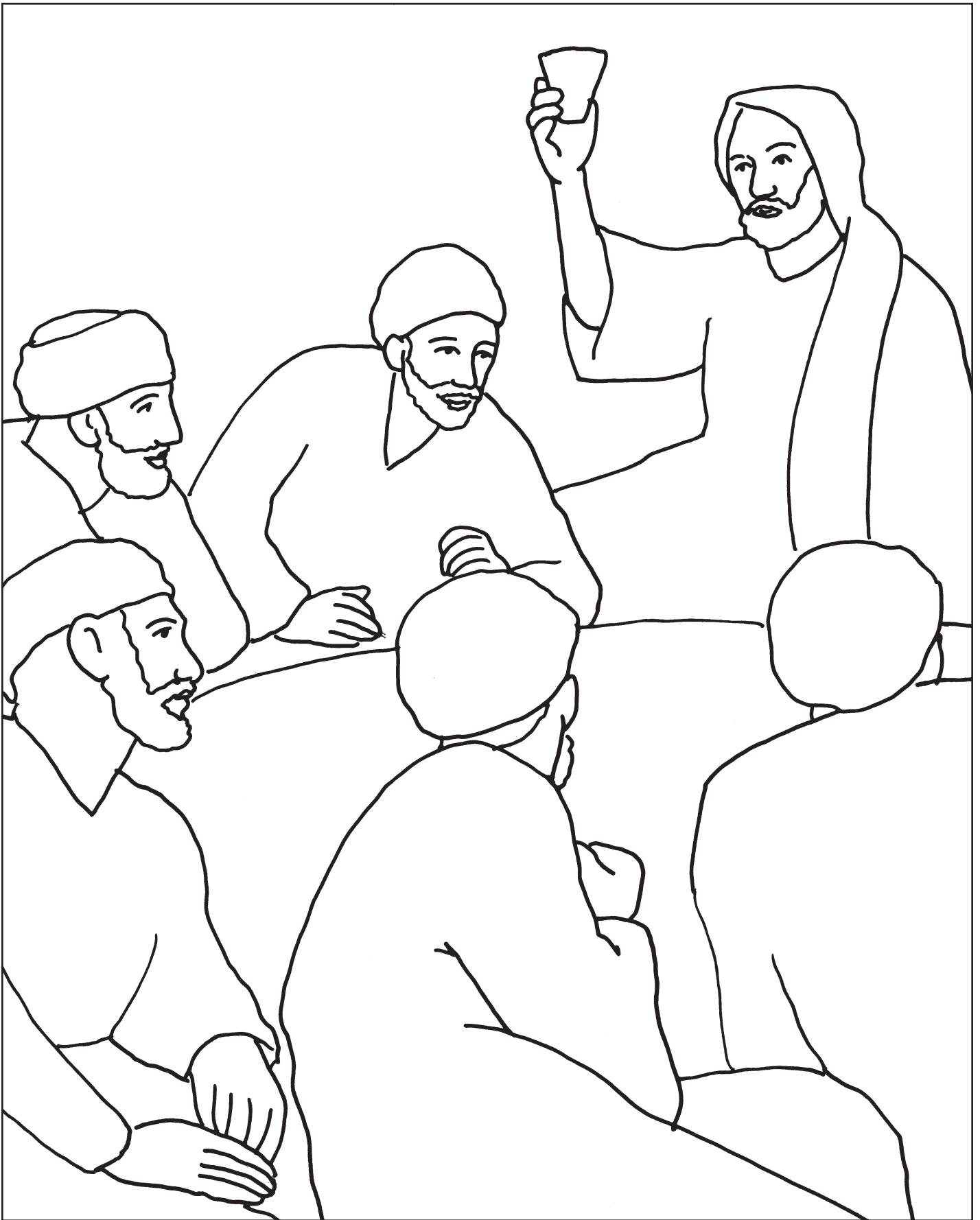
Fresh parsley sprigs, Jewish matzoh, cup

Inspire Action

•SYMBOLS: none

DISCIPLESHIP TIP

Be prepared for a larger class today, especially if you teach this lesson on Easter Sunday. You might want to invite another adult to assist you, just in case.



Jesus Celebrates the Passover



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