

Lesson #3-4

The Promises of Passover

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

3rd-6th

Key Verse:

“Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the LORD brought you out from there by strength of hand.”
Exodus 13:3

The Point:

God gives us ways to remember and celebrate God’s deliverance.

Making Connections:

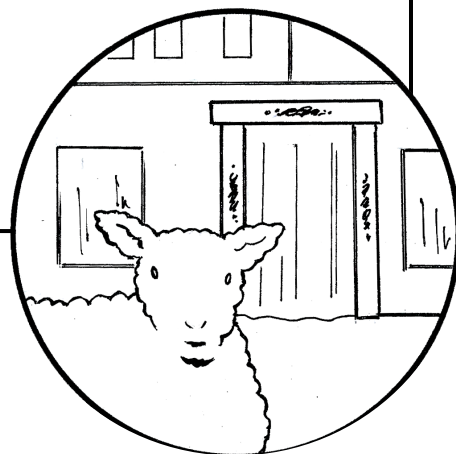
Promises Made, Promises Broken

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Exodus Story

Spiritual Practice:

Worship



Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Into the Story

Memory

Challenge the memory with a game of patterns.

10 min.

- † Colored index cards
- † Optional: Internet-connected device

Bible Nuts & Bolts

The Exodus Story

Make story cards to tell the exodus story.

15 min.

- † Colored index cards
- † Pens or pencils

Learning the Story

The Promises of Passover

Watch the *Prince of Egypt*.

15 min.

- † Bibles
- † Video player
- † The movie *The Prince of Egypt* (1998)

Living the Story

Remembrance

Worship through recalling God's great deeds.

15 min.

- † None

Additional Activities

Story Bracelets

Make duct tape bracelets to help us remember what God has done for us.

15 min.

- † Duct tape (black, red, white)
- † Scissors

Activities a la Carte

Additional Activities

The Passover Meal

Get an idea of the Passover meal.

15 min.

- † Food for meal (grape juice, parsley sprigs, romaine lettuce or horseradish, salt water, and matzah)
- † Grape juice and matzah to share
- † Paper plates
- † Cups
- † Optional: a rabbi or representative of the local Jewish community.

Passing the Bread

A game of guessing and review.

15 min.

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-4.A
- † Individually-wrapped crackers (or a piece of matzah in a plastic sandwich bag)

Bible Book

Optional ongoing activity.

5 min.

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Sending the Story

5 min.

- † None

Background for Teachers

Making Connections

Things changed after Joseph died. A new king in Egypt forced the Israelites to serve him. Life for the Israelites was unpleasant at best. Moses was born during this time and was later called to lead God's people out of slavery. Despite nine plagues being sent to motivate Pharaoh (the king) to release the Israelites, Pharaoh held fast. Finally, God told Moses of a tenth plague that would ensure the Israelites' release. We see today that as part of this plan the Israelites held the first Passover meal, a celebration they were to continue throughout the generations in remembrance of their deliverance from Egyptian slavery.

Story Summary:

The Promises of Passover

God used Moses and Aaron to lead the Israelite people out of Egypt after they had lived for years as slaves to the Egyptians. God gave Moses a specific plan for the people to follow on the night of their deliverance. This included eating a specific meal and painting lamb's blood around the doorway. At night, the firstborn of the Egyptian families, including Pharaoh's son, died. While the Egyptians were mourning, the Israelites fled. At last, God delivered the Israelites from slavery. As a reminder of what God did for them, the Israelites were told to celebrate a Passover festival once a year. During this time they would eat unleavened bread and talk about how death struck the Egyptians but passed over (Passover) the homes with lamb's blood on the door posts.

The Point

God gives us ways to remember and celebrate God's deliverance. Passover is still celebrated by many Jews all over the world. There are other days of deliverance in biblical history that we celebrate, most recognizably the birth of Jesus at Christmas

and the death and resurrection of Jesus during Holy Week and Easter. Some celebrate the time leading up to Christmas as Advent, and some celebrate the time leading up to Easter as Lent.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Exodus Story

The exodus story tells of the Israelites leaving captivity in Egypt and heading for the Promised Land. Moses told the people to remember the day when God freed them from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 13:3). In celebration and remembrance of this amazing deliverance, Passover was celebrated and continues to be celebrated by many Jews today. Jesus' death and resurrection was recorded in the New Testament with specific parallels to this Old Testament story. Just as the lamb's blood set the Israelites free from slavery and death, Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection set humankind free from slavery to sin and death. Both stories carry the central theme of rescue by a loving God who delivers people from hardship.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

Worship is any way we show our love to God. We worship God in many ways and for many reasons. We worship God for being God and for loving us first. We worship God for being all powerful, all knowing, and always present. We worship Jesus as King, Savior, and Lord. We worship God as healer, provider, and guide. As the Israelites spent years enslaved by the Egyptians, we sometimes spend years in enslaved by fears, habits, or situations. Ask God to set you free. Worship God as your deliverer!



Lesson Plan



Into the Story (10 minutes)

Memory

Challenge the memory with a game of patterns.

You will need:

- † Colored index cards
- † Optional: Internet-connected device

Before class:

1. Arrange the index cards on the table and make yourself a small map of the layout. If it helps you to have numbers on the cards, write them on the cards.

During class:

1. **We are going to play a memory game.**
2. Explain the game. The first student will tap a card. The next student will tap that card and then tap any other. The third student will tap the first card, the second card, and then tap any other. See how far this can go before someone forgets the pattern. While the students are touching cards, you will need to keep track (jot it on paper), so you can let them know when the pattern is forgotten.
3. When someone taps the wrong card, say: **Stop! You did a good job remembering, but it looks like you forgot when you reached this card.**
4. Play this a few times.
5. End this activity by saying: **We have to work hard to keep our memory in shape! There are certain things that we should always remember, like the things that God has done for us.**
6. Optional: If you have access to technology and prefer an online version of this activity, try <http://www.mindgames.com/game/Simon>. Children can take turns, remembering all of the steps along the way. Another option is to play the Simon game if you have it.

Bible Nuts & Bolts (15 minutes)

The Exodus Story

Make story cards to tell the exodus story.

You will need:

- † Colored index cards
- † Pens or pencils

During class:

1. As you explain the exodus story, the students will make one story card per point. When done, the students will shuffle the cards they made and see who can put their cards in the correct order first. Each student will need six index cards.
2. **We are going to make story cards as we learn about the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.** Distribute index cards and pens and pencils.
3. **At Easter time, we celebrate Jesus making a way for our sins to be forgiven. We can say Jesus set us free or Jesus delivered us from our sin.**
4. **At Passover, our Jewish friends celebrate when God set the Israelites free from being held captive by the Egyptians. We say that God delivered them from bondage or captivity.**
5. **After Joseph died, the new Egyptian king was very mean to the Israelites and made them slaves to the Egyptians.** (Story card #1: the students can design their own cards, but a suggestion is a crown on a frowning face.)
6. **God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.**
7. **God sent plagues on the Egyptians, but Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go. One of these plagues was that the river turned to blood and all the fish and animals that were in it died. Some of the others included the land being covered in frogs, lice, flies, or locusts, and the people being covered with boils, or sores. One plague included a bad thunderstorm where fire came down with the hail.** (Story card #2: the students can design their own cards, but a suggestion is to draw a bug or a lightning bolt to symbolize the plagues.)
8. **Then God gave special instructions to Moses to tell the people to paint lamb's blood around the outside of their front door.** (Story card #3; the students can design their own, but a suggestion is to draw a door, a paint brush, or a lamb.)



9. **God gave instructions for the people to prepare a special meal and eat in a hurry. Get ready to leave.** (Story card #4; the students can design their own, but a suggestion is to draw a dinner plate.)
10. **God sent a plague that killed the boy babies in the Egyptian families, but the plague passed over the houses with the lamb's blood around the doors (the Israelites' houses).** (Story card #5; the students can design their own, but a suggestion is to draw a sad face with teardrops.)
11. **The Israelites were able to go free.** (Story card #6: the students can design their own, but a suggestion is to draw a smiley face or write the word free in capital letters.)
12. **The Passover is a celebration when the Jewish people take time to remember that God set them free or delivered them from the Egyptians. Our God works in history and gives us unique ways to remember and celebrate God's deliverance.**
13. **Shuffle your cards and put them back in order to tell the exodus story.**

Learning the Story (15 minutes)

The Promises of Passover

Watch the *Prince of Egypt*.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Video player
- † The movie *The Prince of Egypt* (1998)

Before class:

1. Cue the movie to the portion that tells about Passover and the Ten Plagues.

During class:

1. Show the video clip.
2. **Why is it so important to remember from generation to generation that God delivered the Egyptians from bondage?** *[It reminds people that God is their God and they are God's people; it helps people remember God's love for them; it helps them remember who is responsible for their freedom.]*
3. **What would be lost if this event were forgotten?** *[Knowing that God is the one responsible for their freedom and not themselves.]*
4. **The Israelites put the blood of a lamb on their door posts. Who do we call the Lamb of God today?** *[Jesus.]* **Why do you think we call Jesus the Lamb of God?** *[He shed his blood to set us free from sin; he sacrificed his life to set us free.]*
5. Ask a volunteer to read Exodus 13:3.
6. Ask another volunteer to read Exodus 13:9.
7. **Jesus is the son of the same God who delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians. Our God sets us free to live and to love.**

Living the Story (15 minutes)

Remembrance

Worship through recalling God's great deeds.

You will need:

† Nothing

During class:

1. **The Israelites worshipped God by remembering what God did for them and by setting aside a week to focus on and talk about what God did. It is good to remember what God has done for us.**
2. **We will worship God now by telling stories of what God has done for us. Remember big and small things. Feel free to share any other stories that you can remember from any part of the Bible, too. After each memory is shared, we will clap and thank God for doing this for you.**
3. Depending on the group, you may need to give a few personal examples to get this going.
4. When the activity is done, ask: **How do you feel now after hearing of all of these things that God did?** *[Answers will vary.]* **What are your thoughts about God after hearing these stories?** *[Answers will vary.]*



Additional Activities

Story Bracelets (15 minutes)

Make duct tape bracelets to help us remember what God has done for us.

You will need:

- † Duct tape (black, red, white)
- † Scissors

During class:

1. **We are going to make bracelets to remind us of the Exodus story. When we wear them, we can remember that our God delivers people. We can share the meaning of our bracelets with others.**
2. **Tape two lengths of black duct tape together sticky side to sticky side. Do the same with the red and white tape. Fold each strip in half horizontally.**
3. **Braid the three strips, pressing down on the tape after each step.**
4. **The colors of the braided bracelets are symbolic and help us remember: black for slavery (or sin); red for the blood of the lamb on the doors (and Jesus' blood), and white for freedom (also being forgiven, white as snow).**
5. **As you braid, each time you fold (or braid) a certain color strip, say aloud what the color means. For example, as I braid in the white, I will say, "white for freedom, being forgiven, white as snow."**
6. **When the braiding is done, use duct tape to join and seal the ends.**
7. **Allow time for the children to practice what they will tell others about the meaning of their bracelets.**

The Passover Meal (15 minutes)

Get an idea of the Passover meal.

You will need:

- † Food for the meal (grape juice, parsley sprigs, horseradish or romaine lettuce, salt water, and matzah)
- † Grape juice and matzah to share
- † Paper plates
- † Cups
- † Optional: a rabbi or representative of the local Jewish community.

Before class:

1. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.
2. If possible, ask a rabbi or another Jewish representative to explain about the Passover.

During class:

1. **The Israelites were told to always remember the time when God set them free from slavery. The Jewish people celebrate the Passover with a special meal as part of remembering. Christians do not celebrate Passover. Today we are going to learn a little about the Jewish custom, not practice it.**
2. Although this will not be a full Passover meal, try to include grape juice, parsley sprigs, horseradish (or romaine lettuce as a mild substitute), salt water, and matzah.
3. **We are going to see some of the foods eaten at Passover to get an idea of how many Jews remember the Passover.**
4. Explain the significance of the various foods on a Seder plate that we are using today.
5. **The grape juice represents the way that the Israelites were set free. Jewish people take a sip of the juice to remember this.**
6. Dip the parsley in the salt water. **This represents the tears shed when the Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptians. Jewish people eat the salty parsley to remember the tears.**
7. **The matzah represents the unleavened bread. Many Jews get rid of anything that has yeast in it from their homes eat unleavened bread at Passover. Matzah is unleavened.** Hold up the matzah.
8. **The lettuce, or bitter herb, represents the bitter times spent in Egypt.**



9. **This was an example of the special meal many Jews eat to celebrate the Passover. We do not celebrate Passover. We celebrate Easter, when Jesus set us free from sin. Is there a special meal that your family eats to celebrate Easter?**
[Answers will vary.]
10. Pour cups of grape juice and break off pieces of matzah for each student to have a taste.

Passing the Bread (15 minutes)

A game of guessing and review.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-4.A
- † Individually-wrapped crackers (or a piece of matzah in a plastic sandwich bag)

During class:

1. Set up the game by seating an equal number of students across from each other at the table.
2. Explain: **An individually wrapped snack cracker will be passed secretly under the table from one person to the next on one side of the table only.**
3. **Those of you on the other side are not allowed to look under the table.**
4. **When I make a trumpet sound with my mouth (demonstrate), those of you on the other side will guess who has the cracker.**
5. **If the guess is correct, the guessing side gets to use their Bibles to answer a question about today's lesson for one point. If the guess is incorrect, the other side of the table gets to use their Bibles to answer a question about today's lesson to earn one point. If a cracker gets broken, a point is deducted from the team who breaks it.**
6. Scripture references, questions, and answers are on Activity Sheet #3-4.A.



Bible Book (5 minutes)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Before class:

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on cardstock or copy paper for each student.

During class:

1. Hand out Bible Book pages.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**
[*Answers will vary.*]
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of the important things you've learned. Don't forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

Sending the Story (5 minutes)

Our God works in history and gives us unique ways to remember and celebrate God's deliverance.

- What did God do for the Israelites in today's story?
- Why were they to celebrate Passover?

Prayer

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Get on the floor into a tight ball.

Pray quietly for forgiveness of sins.

Allow time for prayer.

You are forgiven. You are free!

Jump up.

Thank you God for setting us free.

Amen.

Passing the Bread

A game of guessing and review.

Questions

Before asking a question, give the Scripture reference and allow time for students to look it up.

1. **Exodus 12:1** - To whom did God give instructions for the people to know what to do for the Passover? [*Moses and Aaron.*]
2. **Exodus 12:3** - What animal was each family supposed to get in preparation for the Passover? [*A lamb.*]
3. **Exodus 12:1** - In what land were Moses and Aaron when God spoke to them? [*Egypt.*]
4. **Exodus 12:3** - What group of people were Moses and Aaron told to speak to about the Passover? [*Israelites.*]
5. **Exodus 12:5** - What kind of lamb were the people instructed to get? [*Male, without blemish.*]
6. **Exodus 12:6** - How long were the Israelites supposed to keep the lamb? [*Fourteen days.*]
7. **Exodus 12:6** - When were the lambs supposed to be killed? [*At twilight or sundown.*]
8. **Exodus 12:7** - Where were the Israelites instructed to put blood from the lamb? [*On the doorposts of their houses.*]
9. **Exodus 12:11** - What was the eating of the roasted lamb called? [*The Lord's Passover meal.*]
10. **Exodus 12:12** - For whom was the Passover going to be painful? [*Egyptians.*]
11. **Exodus 12:13** - What was the purpose of the blood being put on the door posts? [*For God to know which houses to pass over.*]
12. **Exodus 13:3** - Who freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt? [*God.*]
13. **Exodus 13:3** - What kind of bread were the people told to eat? [*Unleavened bread.*]
14. **Exodus 13:8** - What reason were the people given for eating the unleavened bread? [*To remind them of what the Lord did to free them from the Egyptians.*]
15. **Exodus 13:7** - For how many days were the Israelites supposed to eat unleavened bread? [*Seven days.*]

The Promises of Passover

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

I Learned:



The Story @ Home

3rd-6th

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2020-2021)

Lesson #3-4
Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

Last Week

God keeps Abram's great-grandson Joseph safe, keeping the promise God made to Abram. Joseph's family, the people of Israel arrive in Egypt to get food during a famine. (Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-20).

This Week

Jacob's descendants stay in Egypt, but become slaves. God rescues the Israelites to take them to the land that God promised to Abraham. This story is celebrated in Passover (Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8).

The Point

God gives us ways to remember and celebrate God's deliverance.

Story Summary

The Promises of Passover

After years of living as slaves, God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God gave Moses instructions for the people to follow. This included eating a special meal and painting lamb's blood around the doorway. At night, the firstborn of the Egyptian families died, but death passed over the homes of the Israelites. While the Egyptians were mourning, the Israelites fled. As a reminder of what God did for them, the Israelites were told to celebrate a Passover festival once a year. During this time they would eat special foods and remember how God rescued them from slavery.

Next Week

God leads the people of Israel out of Egypt and gives them instructions on how to live God's way. But, the people disobey right away by worshipping a statue of a calf (Exodus 32:1-14).

Bible Nuts & Bolts

The Exodus Story

The story about God rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt is called the exodus, or "way out." Throughout the Bible, God is known as the God who brings freedom: freedom from slavery, freedom from injustice, and freedom even from death. Jesus is sometimes called the Passover lamb, since, just as the lamb's blood set the Israelites free from slavery and death, Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection sets us free from slavery to sin and death.

Practice: Worship

We worship God in many ways and for many reasons. We worship God for being God and for loving us first. We worship God for being all-powerful, all-knowing, and always present. We worship Jesus as King, Savior, and Lord. We worship God as healer, provider, and guide. Take a moment to worship God together as your deliverer. Sing a favorite worship song (you can find a video online). Try dancing as you sing. Jesus set us free!

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ What does this reading show you about following God?
- ✚ What does this reading tell you about God's care for people?
- ✚ God led the Israelites through a long journey. What do you need God to lead you through today?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

This is the story of Passover. God promised to keep the Israelites safe from the last plague sent to Egypt. God promised to set the Israelites free. Share some crackers to celebrate what God did for the Israelites. Stand together by the table or counter and eat with your coats on.

Monday—Read Exodus 13:17-22

God led the Israelites through the wilderness. God guided them with a pillar of cloud in the day time and a pillar of fire at night. Play follow the leader while the leader holds a pillow. Dim the lights and then follow the leader while the leader holds a flashlight.

Tuesday—Read Exodus 14:5-25

This is the story of crossing the Red Sea. God parted the waters, so the Israelites could escape from the pursuing Egyptians. Fill a tub or sink with water. Try to make a dry path in the middle of the water. Imagine God pushing the water of the sea aside to make a path. (This can be done at bath time or before washing hands so the water is not wasted.)

Wednesday—Read Exodus 16:1-8

The Israelites became hungry on their journey, so God sent them bread. Seal one cracker in each of five small bags and two crackers in a sixth bag. Scatter the bags on the floor. Count out six days, gathering the day's "bread" as you call out each day. Eat the "bread" each "day," but save one piece on the sixth day for the seventh day.

Thursday—Read Exodus 19:1-9, 20-25

The Israelites reached Mount Sinai, and Moses went up the mountain to hear from God. Designate a space in your house as your special "mountain place" where you can pray. Leave a pad and pencil there for requests. Pray together there and know that anyone can meet God there at any time.

Friday—Read Exodus 20:1-17

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Memorize the first commandment by repeating it aloud together (Exodus 20:3).

Saturday—Read Exodus 24:9-18

Moses was on the mountain for forty days and nights. Put on sunglasses. Imagine that God is so bright the sunglasses would not be able to block or shade our eyes from the light.