

Lesson #3-4

The Promises of Passover

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

PK-2nd

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

Story Centers (PK-K)

15 min.

Set the Table

Pretend to eat a special meal.

Follow Instructions

Listen to the instructions.

Hide and Remember

Remember something that is hidden.

† Kitchen toy sets

† Optional: recorded instructions

† Small toys

Into the Story (PK-2nd)

Memory Challenge

Remember and match color patterns.

10 min.

† Index cards

† Markers and crayons

† Optional: other cards with pairs

Bible Nuts & Bolts (1st-2nd)

The Exodus Story

Participate in a freedom march.

15 min.

† Paper

† Markers and crayons

† Cotton

† Glue

Learning the Story (PK-2nd)

The Promise of Passover

Watch a video and hear the story.

15 min.

† Bibles

† Internet-connected video player

Activities a la Carte

Living the Story (PK-2nd)

Celebrate the Memory

Play instruments in worship.

10 min.

† None

Singing the Story (PK-2nd)

Free

Sing a piggyback song to the tune of “Old MacDonald had a Farm.”

5 min.

† None

Additional Activities

The Passover Meal (1st - 2nd)

The Passover meal will be eaten in a hurry.

10 min.

† Paper plates
† Crackers or matzah
† Optional: pitcher of water and small cups

Remembering (PK-2nd)

Use special days to remember what God has done for us.

15 min.

† None

Set Free (1st - 2nd)

Play a game where being tagged sets you free.

15 min.

† None

Activities a la Carte

Additional Activities

Bible Book (PK-2nd)

Optional ongoing activity.

5 min.

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

Sending the Story (PK-2nd)

5 min.

- † None

Background for Teachers

Story 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 and 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



Story Centers (PK-K; 15 minutes)

Story Centers are mini-activities designed specifically for preschool and kindergarten students. Depending on the size of your class, you can set these up as centers for in-class rotations or do them as a whole class one after another. In most preschool and kindergarten classes, these centers along with a snack, the “Learning the Story” activity, and the “Living the Story” activity will fill the education time, but feel free to choose any activity you think would be fun and appropriate for your class.

Set the Table

The Israelites ate a special Passover meal. Students play setting the table and serving pretend food.

Follow Instructions

The Israelites were given specific instructions to follow for the Passover. The teacher can either give any sort of instructions, or for free play they can be pre-recorded and played back. Students listen to instructions and do what they say.

Hide and Remember

The Israelites were told to remember the Passover and celebrate it each year. Students hide toys and then try to find what they hid, remembering where they put things.

Into the Story (PK-2nd; 10 minutes)

Memory Challenge

Color patterns are remembered and matched.

You will need:

- † Index cards
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: other cards with pairs

Before class:

1. Use various color crayons and put an X mark on one side of each of the cards. Make two cards of each color.
2. Arrange the cards face down on the floor or table.

During class:

1. Demonstrate the game to the students.
2. Students take turns turning over two cards looking for a match. If there is no match, the cards are returned to face down. If a match is found, the student wins that move and the cards are removed from the game.
3. After playing the game, say: **Now that your memories have had some exercise, we do not need to remember those color patterns anymore. Today we are going to learn about something that God told the Israelites to always remember, forever and ever, and it is something we can remember, too.**

Optional: Instead of making your own cards, you can use any deck of cards that has easily recognizable pairs.

Bible Nuts & Bolts (1st-2nd; 15 minutes)

The Exodus Story

Participate in a freedom march.

You will need:

- † Paper
- † Markers or crayons
- † Cotton
- † Glue

Before class:

1. Roll a piece of paper to use as a megaphone.
2. Draw a rectangle on a piece of paper and mark red crayon around the top and sides to represent the lamb's blood on the top and sides of a doorway.
3. Glue a few cotton balls to a piece of paper. Draw four vertical lines beneath this to represent legs on a lamb.
4. Place these three objects in three different locations in the classroom.

During class:

1. **We are going to learn about the exodus story while on a freedom march.** Line the students up and march with them to the first object, the rolled paper.
2. **Moses had an announcement for the people. God told him to tell the people that God was going to set them free from the Egyptians who kept them as slaves.** Pick up the rolled paper and use it like a megaphone: **God is going to set you free.**
3. March the students to the second object, the rectangle. **Moses told the people to paint lamb's blood around the door post. God would make sure that harm would pass over any house with blood around the door post.**
4. March the students to the third object, the cotton lamb. **The Israelites were to eat a special Passover meal of a lamb and unleavened bread.**
5. **In the night, harm came to the Egyptians but not to the Israelites. The Israelites were able to leave Egypt. Their march out of Egypt is called the exodus.**
6. Go through the stations again a few more times, but ask the students to tell you the exodus story.
7. **God set the Israelites free.**



Learning the Story (PK-2nd; 15 minutes)

The Promises of Passover

Watch a video and hear the story.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Internet-connected video player

Before class:

1. Do an Internet search for “Passover story video for kids” and choose a video or part of a video that meets your needs. One good video is called “God’s Story: Passover,” though you may consider stopping at 2:33 if needed to fit with your tradition’s theology:
2. Cue the video.

During class:

1. Hold an open Bible and say: **Our story today is found in the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament of the Bible. We are going to talk about the Bible story, but first we are going to watch a video about this Bible story, so you can get a picture of it in your mind.**
2. Show the video.
3. **Can you remember any of the foods the Israelites ate for their special dinner?** *[Lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs]. What foods does your family eat when you have a special dinner?* *[Answers will vary.]*
4. **The Bible tells us that God spoke through Moses and Aaron with instructions for the Passover meal: eat in a hurry. Show me what it looks like to eat in a hurry.**
5. **The Passover meal was a special meal to celebrate that God was going to set the Israelites free. The Egyptians held them captive for a long, long time.**
6. **The Bible tells us that God had a special plan. What were the Israelites supposed to do so the danger would pass over their houses?** *[The people had to put lamb’s blood on their doorposts and above their doors.]*
7. **When this happened, the Israelites were able to leave Egypt. Show me what it would look like if you were set free after a long, long time. You will need to get out of your seats to show me.**
8. **The Bible tells us that God told the people to always remember this day. What do you do to remember things?** *[Answers will vary.] How would you celebrate something this important?* *[Answers will vary.]*



9. **God wanted the Israelites to remember that God set them free and is the Lord their God.**
10. **Let us practice remembering by recalling what you saw in the video.** Allow time for the students to retell the story.

Living the Story (PK-2nd; 10 minutes)

Celebrate the Memory

Play instruments in worship.

You will need:

† Nothing

During class:

1. **We worship God because God is good. We worship God because God is great. We are going to worship God. I will say something about God. Then you will repeat after me. After that you can use the table as a drum, use your hand at your mouth to make a horn sound, or clap your hands. We will use words and instruments to worship God.**
2. **God has done good things for me. Let us worship God.** (Students repeat and play instruments.)
3. **God saved the Israelites from the Egyptians. Let us worship God.** (Students repeat and play instruments.)
4. **We love God because God first loved us.** (Students repeat and play instruments.)
5. **God created the world and all that is in it.** (Students repeat and play instruments.)
6. **God sent Jesus to earth for us.** (Students repeat and play instruments.)
7. **God forgives us when we sin.** (Students repeat and play instruments.)
8. **God provides for all our needs.** (Students repeat and play instruments.)
9. **God protects us from our enemies.** (Students repeat and play instruments.)
10. **What can you remember that God has done for you? Say it, and we will repeat you and play our instruments. Let us worship God.** *[Answers will vary.]*
11. When the activity is over, say: **We can worship any time by remembering all we know about God and thanking God for being so great.**

Singing the Story (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

Free

Sing a piggyback song to the tune of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm.”

Moses said, “Let my people go”
Go, go, go, go, go!
Pharaoh replied with, “No, no, no”
No, no, no, no, no!

With a go, go, here, and a no, no there
Here a go, there a no
Everywhere a no, no

God reached out and set them free
God let the people go!



Additional Activities

The Passover Meal (1st-2nd; 10 minutes)

The Passover meal will be eaten in a hurry.

You will need:

- † Paper plates
- † Crackers or matzah
- † Optional: pitcher of water and small cups

Before class:

1. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

During class:

1. **The Israelites were told to always remember the time when God set them free from slavery. Many Jewish people celebrate the Passover with a special meal as part of remembering. Christians usually do not celebrate Passover. Today we are going to learn a little about the Jewish custom.**
2. Students will stand by the side of their chairs. Set the table with paper plates and single servings of matzah. The students will eat their matzah while standing up waiting for time to be announced to get in a line and march around the table and back to their plates.
3. **When the Israelites were to have the first Passover meal, they were to eat ready to leave quickly. Let us see what that might have been like. We need to eat standing up, so we will be ready to leave when it is time to go. When you hear me say, “We are free,” leave your matzah on the plate and march around the table repeating, “We are free. We are free.” When you get back to your seat, stand and we will repeat this.**
4. **The Israelites ate a special meal to prepare to leave Egypt. Take a small bite of the cracker and put the matzah back on your plate. Allow time for chewing. We are free!**
5. Students march once around the table. **We are free. We are free.**



6. **The Israelites ate their meal in a hurry, so they would be ready to leave at any time. Take a small bite of your matzah and place it back on your plate. Allow time for chewing. We are free!**
7. Students march once around the table. **We are free. We are free.**
8. **God told the Israelites to remember and celebrate the Passover once a year, forever. Take a small bite of your matzah. Allow time for chewing. We are free!**
9. Students march once around the table. **We are free. We are free.**
10. **This was not a real Passover meal. We do not celebrate Passover. This gave us a little idea of the important celebration that the Israelites were to have year after year.**
11. **The Israelites were slaves to the Egyptians for a long, long time. It probably felt like they would never be set free. The Egyptians were very, very mean to them. They lived a very hard life. Finally, freedom came. God saved the Israelites from the Egyptians. This is something God wanted the Israelites to always remember. We are free!**
12. Students march once around the table. **We are free. We are free.**
13. **Many Jewish people still celebrate Passover today.**
14. Offer cups of water if students are thirsty.



Remembering (PK-2nd; 15 minutes)

Use special days to help us remember what God has done for us.

You will need:

† Nothing

During class:

1. **At Christmas, we remember that Jesus was born. At Easter, we remember that Jesus died and rose to forgive our sins. We remember and celebrate what God has done for us. The Israelites remembered that God set them free. They remembered by eating unleavened bread and talking about what God did. God wants us to remember what God did for us.**
2. **When I say a word or a few words, you say a holiday that helps us remember what God did for us.**
 - **Cross** *[Easter, or Good Friday.]*
 - **Manger** *[Christmas]*
 - **Unleavened bread** *[Passover.]*
 - **Crown of thorns** *[Easter, or Good Friday.]*
 - **Baby** *[Christmas.]*
 - **Wise men** *[Christmas or Epiphany.]*
 - **Empty tomb** *[Easter]*
 - **Blood on doorposts** *[Passover.]*
 - **Exodus from Egypt** *[Passover.]*
3. **Each of those things help us remember what God has done for us and for others. Has God done anything else for you that you can share and will always remember? How do you remember it?** *[Answers will vary.]*



Set Free (1st-2nd; 15 minutes)

Play a game where being tagged sets you free.

You will need:

† Nothing

During class:

1. This is a game like freeze tag, but the opposite. Students are frozen and cannot move until someone sets them free. They call on the freedom maker (player) to set them free, but that person can only set them free if they first answer a question. You can be the first freedom maker, and then you will not need to play after the first student is free. As each student is set free, that person becomes the freedom maker. The freedom maker can choose who to set free, but the player must wait for the frozen student to answer a question before tagging and setting the student free.
2. **Go somewhere in the room and freeze in place.**
3. **When the freedom maker asks if you want to be set free, say yes or no. If you say yes, you will need to answer a question to be set free. If you get the answer wrong, you will remain frozen until your next turn. When you are set free, you will become the next freedom maker.**
4. **Reuse these questions. freedom makers hear the questions from you and repeat them to the frozen player.**
 - **Who gave the Israelites God's instructions about Passover?** [*Moses.*]
 - **What meat did the Israelites have to eat for Passover dinner?** [*Lamb.*]
 - **Why were the Israelites to put blood around their door?** [*So danger would pass over their homes.*]
 - **What did God do for the Israelites at Passover?** [*God set them free.*]
 - **Who held the Israelites captive?** [*The Egyptians.*]
 - **Why did God want the Israelites to remember Passover?** [*So that they would always know that their God is the God who delivered them.*]
5. **It is fun when we play a game like this, but it was not fun for the Israelites to live as slaves for many years. When they were set free, it was wonderful for them.**



Bible Book (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † 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. Pass out Bible Book pages.
2. Read the bottom of the Bible Book page aloud, reminding students of what they learned in the lesson.
3. Have them put their names on their pages, and draw a picture of something they particularly liked or remember from story in the middle of the page.
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 (PK-2nd; 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 to help them remember and celebrate the freedom that God gave them?
- What has God done for us to remember and celebrate the freedom that God gives us?

Prayer

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

Put on imaginary thinking caps to remember things that God has done for you. As you remember, stand up and say thank you God for _____. (Students can pop up more than once.)

The Promises of Passover

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

The Point:

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



The Story @ Home

PK-2nd

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 the 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.