



Seder (“Say-dur”) Family Lesson

Principle: God’s provision and sacrifice

Scripture Reference: Exodus 12

Personal Preparation

Before the weekend, please read Exodus 12. Read looking for details of the Passover. Also, watch the training video so that you are able to walk your family through and explain the significance of the Passover meal. Celebrate and praise God for his plan for salvation as you study and prepare for this week’s lesson. **This Seder meal is meant for your whole family with children of all ages.**

Preparation

**Blood on door frames: This lesson will reference blood on the door frames. Feel free to use red construction paper, or just copy paper and color it red. Three long pieces will work well. Tape one to the top of your exterior door frame and one on each side. This illustration is intended to help your family make connections with the Scripture they will hear today.

The First Passover Introduction

The purpose is to introduce the Passover meal and help campers see how Jesus’ provision and sacrifice are like the Passover lamb.

Today, we will have a Passover meal together. This special meal will help us remember the story of God’s faithfulness to the Israelites. It is important to sit very quietly and reverently. Let’s not touch or eat anything until I tell you. Let’s all listen very carefully to the teaching so we can understand the special meaning of the meal.

Do you remember in the Old Testament how Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt?

(Allow responses.) **They were his slaves. Pharaoh watched Egypt suffer from many plagues. Can you think of some of the plagues?** (Frogs, hail, boils, livestock disease, locusts, flies, blood etc.) **Even with all these plagues, Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go! Pharaoh was one stubborn and hardheaded guy! Finally, Moses warned Pharaoh that the worst plague of all would come to punish Pharaoh for refusing to obey God. Can anyone remember what this final plague was?** (All the firstborn sons would be killed.) **Even then, Pharaoh did not listen to God!**

Because the Israelites were God’s chosen people, he gave them a special way to save their firstborn sons. Let’s take a look at God’s Word to see how he provides a way to save them.

Exodus 12: 1-7

¹ While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the Lord gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: ² “From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you. ³ Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. ⁴ If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat. ⁵ The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects.

⁶ “Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. 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.

Exodus 12: 12-14

¹² On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the Lord! ¹³ But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the Lord...”

God says that each household should kill a young, innocent, flawless lamb and spread its blood over on their door frames. Today, we taped pretend blood on the outside of our door. This picture of blood is similar to what the Israelites’ doors might have looked like. This blood on the doorframe is the only way God will pass them by—the blood of a lamb will cover them. This innocent lamb dies in place of their firstborn sons.

Do you think the Israelites listen to God and obey him? What do you think happens next? Do you think God keeps his promise? Let’s find out!

The Passover Seder

Setting Up and Supplies:
Refer to the Set-Up Supply List.

Remember, the Old Testament Pharaoh refuses to let the Israelites leave Egypt. They are his slaves. Pharaoh watches Egypt suffer from plagues of locusts, frogs, darkness, blood, hail, and more. Yet he will not let the Israelites go! Pharaoh is one stubborn and hardheaded guy! Finally, Moses warns Pharaoh that the worst plague of all will come to punish Pharaoh for refusing to obey God: all the firstborn sons will

be killed. Even then, Pharaoh does not listen to God!

Because the Israelites are God’s chosen people, he gives them a special way to save their firstborn sons. Do you remember what we just read? (Allow responses) That’s right. God says that each household should kill a young, innocent, and flawless lamb and spread its blood over their door frames. This is the only way God will pass them by—the blood of a lamb will cover them. This innocent lamb dies in place of their firstborn sons.

The Israelites listen to God and obey him. The blood works! God sees their covering and death passes over their houses. None of their firstborn sons die! God keeps his promise to his people!

God tells the Israelites this is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, they are to celebrate it as a special festival to the Lord. This celebration will include a Passover meal that will help them remember the day that death passed over their homes.

Today, we’re going to have a Passover meal together much like the one that the Israelites had. We’re going to eat the same foods they ate and talk about what each food represented to the Israelites AND what the things represent to us now.

This meal reminds us of Jesus. Just like the Passover lamb’s blood covered the Israelites. Jesus’ blood on the cross covers us! When God looks at those who have put their faith in Jesus, death and judgment pass over them. Because of the blood of Jesus, we can have eternal life with God.

Let’s enjoy this meal and see how it shows us the God who saves!

Now, before a family could celebrate the Passover meal, their house had to be very clean and quiet. Before the meal, candles were lit. The

candles stood for the light of the Holy Spirit. (You can use battery-operated candles or real ones.)

Traditionally, the oldest man or the father led the family in the Passover meal. (Any oldest family member can lead this.) **Today, I will be leading us.**

Did you know Jesus actually led a Passover meal? He did! Who's heard of the Last Supper? The Last Supper was the final meal Jesus had with his disciples before he was crucified on the cross. This supper was actually the Passover meal! Because Jesus led the Passover meal, we know he thought it was important.

Psalm 34 tells us to "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Today, we get to celebrate the Passover not only with our eyes and ears, but also through taste and smell. We get to fully experience a message from God. Some of this food you may not like, but it would be great if you tried it, or at least smelled it. This can help you learn a lot and worship Jesus.

The Four Cups

Supplies:

Four Cups poster - see [website](#)

In a traditional Passover, there are four cups of wine. Today, we'll be using juice. These four cups were a symbol of the four promises God made about how he would save his people. (Refer to the "Four Cups" poster hanging on the wall.)

In Exodus 6 God said:

"I will bring you out of Egypt...

I will free you from slavery...

I will save you by my own hand...

I will take you to be my own people and I will be your God."

To remember these four promises, we will drink from our juice four times. When the time comes to taste the juice, we will take sips. Let's get started. (Fill each child's cup $\frac{2}{3}$ full with juice.)

They will only be taking four sips throughout the Seder.)

Kiddush (The First Cup - The Cup of Sanctification)

(Have everyone try to say this in Hebrew – "ki-dəsh.") **When Jesus had his last Passover (The Last Supper), he offered a cup to his disciples and said, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it" (Luke. 22:17). Let's hold up our first cup together and bless the Lord!** (Take only a sip.)

Urkhatz (Washing Hands)

(Have everyone try to say this in Hebrew – "ur-khäts" (the "khä-" here makes a sort of throaty sound like in the word "Chanukah.") **In a traditional Passover, the father would wash the hands of the person to his right and pass the cloth. Take the cloth and gently wash the hands of the person to your right.** (Leader or helper can start by washing the hands of the person to his/her right) **This symbolizes the Scripture that says those with clean hands and pure hearts will stand in God's presence. Remember also that on Jesus' last Passover, he washed the feet of his disciples. He served them. By washing each other's hands, serving others, you are following Jesus' example.** (Each person at the table will wash the hands of the person to his/her right.)

Karpas (Parsley)

(Have everyone try to say is in Hebrew – "kahr-pahs.") **Passover is a holiday that comes in springtime, when the earth is becoming green with life! This green parsley is the sign of life. When the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, their life was miserable and full of many tears. The salt water represents their tears. Our lives can sometimes be miserable and full of tears too—especially when we live in sin. We dip our parsley in the salt water and eat it to remind us of the Israelites' tears and of how miserable our own sin makes us.** (Have each family member take a

small pinch/sprig of parsley, dip it in salt water, and eat.)

Ma Nishtanah (The Four Questions)

Supplies:

Four Questions poster - see [website](#)

(Have everyone try to say is in Hebrew – “mah neesh-tan-nah.”) **In a traditional Passover, the children ask four questions and then the father gives an answer to each question. There are four questions on the poster (refer to the “Four Questions” poster) and I would like four of you to read these questions. Does anyone want to volunteer?** (Assign a question number to each family member and have them read their questions in order.)

- 1. On all other nights, we eat leavened bread. On this night, why do we eat only unleavened bread?**
- 2. On all other nights, we eat all kinds of vegetables. On this night, why do we eat only bitter ones?**
- 3. On all other nights, we don’t dip our vegetables even once. On this night, why do we dip them twice?**
- 4. On all other nights, we sit on our usual seats. On this night, why do we recline on soft cushions?**

Why is this night so different from all other nights? Here are the answers to those questions.

The Answers

(During this section, you and your family will be tasting the foods as you explain the meanings of each element. The questions are on a poster hanging on the wall or in your bin.)

I. Matzah

(Have everyone try to say this in Hebrew – “maht-suh.”) **On all other nights, we eat bread with leaven (with yeast), but during the Passover, we eat only matzah—unleavened bread (without**

yeast). When the Israelites left Egypt, they were in such a hurry they didn’t have time to let their dough rise. Instead, they baked it flat. In the matzah, we can see a picture of Jesus. See how it is striped and pierced? The Scriptures tell us Jesus was “pierced” for our sins and “by his stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5) The matzah is also unleavened, which means without yeast. This reminds us that Jesus was without sin.

I have three pieces of matzah, representing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Take the middle matzah and break it in half.) Just as this middle piece of the bread of suffering is broken, the Son Jesus also suffered and was broken. One half we save for dessert. It is wrapped in a white cloth just as Jesus’ body was wrapped for burial. (Wrap the matzah half in big white napkin or “cloth.”)

The matzah is then hidden in the room. This represents Jesus’ body that was put in a tomb, hidden for a little while. But just as the special piece of matzah will come out again to finish our celebration, Jesus came alive again! Close your eyes while I hide the piece of matzah. (Hide the wrapped matzah somewhere in the room—but don’t make it too hard to find.)

Let us remember Jesus’ words in John 6:35: “I am the bread of life.” As we eat a small piece of matzah, let us remember that we can only have true life in Jesus, the Messiah. (Everyone will break off a small piece of matzah on their plate and eat. They will need to eat from this piece two more times)

2. Maror (The Bitter Herbs - Horseradish)

(Have everyone try to say this in Hebrew – “mah-roar.”) **On all other nights, we eat all kinds of vegetables, but during the Passover, we eat maror, bitter herbs. These bitter herbs (holding up the horseradish) remind us how bitter life was for the Israelites while they were slaves in Egypt. “The Egyptians became afraid of the Israelite**

slaves and made them work even more. They made their lives bitter with hard work, making brick and mortar and doing all kinds of work in the fields.” (Ex.1:12-14) Break off another small piece of your matzah and scoop some maror (horseradish) onto it. (Remind everyone that this is very spicy, and only to take a little; tell them that if they don’t want to eat it, they should smell it.)

Remember, with compassion, the tears our ancestors cried in their slavery long ago. But also remember the bitterness of our own slavery to sin when we do not allow Jesus to set us free. Go ahead and eat the maror and matzah and let the bitter taste bring tears to your eyes. (Eat matzah and maror.)

3. The Charoset (Apple mixture)

(Have everyone try to say this in Hebrew – “khah-roh-set.”) On all other nights, we don’t dip our vegetables even once, but tonight we dip them twice. We’ve already dipped the parsley in salt water. (Hold up the applesauce as you say) The Israelites worked very hard to make brick and clay to build cities for Pharaoh. We remember this in a mixture called charoset, made from apples, cinnamon, honey, nuts, and wine. This mixture reminds us of the mixture the Israelites used to bind bricks. Now, again, scoop some maror (horseradish) onto a piece of matzoh, but this time before eating it, dip it into the sweet charoset (apple mixture). Eat matzah, maror, and charoset “sandwich.” (If children do not want to have the maror again, they can just dip the matzah into the charoset only.)

4. Tonight We Recline

On all other nights, we eat sitting on regular seats, but for the Passover, we relax and sit reclining. How many of you get to eat while lying around at home? The first Passover was celebrated by a people enslaved. The Israelites were told to eat the Passover quickly, their coats ready, their walking sticks in their hands, their sandals on their feet, ready to leave the bondage of Egypt.

Today, we all may relax and freely enjoy the Passover meal. Jesus said, “Come all who are tired, and I will give you REST.” (Matthew 11:28)

The Second Cup - The Cup of Plagues

In Exodus 6:6 God told the Israelites “I am the Lord. I will free you from slavery.” God kept his promise by sending 10 plagues. Who can name some of the plagues? (Blood, frogs, hail, boils, cattle disease, locusts, flies, etc.) As we drink this second cup, let’s remember that God doesn’t want us to be SLAVES to sin, but similar to the Israelites, he wants us to be FREE. (Take the second sip, remind children just to sip.)

Passover Lamb

Supplies:

Lamb Chart poster - see [website](#)

Before the Exodus from Egypt, God told the Israelites to kill a lamb and put the blood on the doorway to their home. (Point out or hold up the [lamb shank bone](#). Don’t worry if you don’t have one.) This lamb shank bone reminds us of the lamb that was sacrificed.

This, I think, is the most important part. In the Old Testament, only the blood of a sacrifice (done in faith) would protect someone from God’s wrath. For us, faith in Jesus’ blood sacrificed for our sins is the only thing that will protect us from God’s wrath

Today, this lamb shank bone reminds us of Jesus. Just like the Passover lamb’s blood covered the Israelites. Jesus’s blood on the cross covers us! When God looks at those who have put their faith in Jesus, death and judgment pass over them. Because of the blood of Jesus, we can have eternal life with God.

This is so huge! In the book of Revelation (the final chapter of the Bible), Jesus is called the “Lamb of God” more than every other name

combined. Jesus is our lamb—because of his blood, God passes over us!

Let’s take a closer look at the Passover lamb for the Israelites and how Jesus fulfilled that sacrifice for us. (Show the chart to your family and go over each example from the Passover lamb and Jesus the Lamb of God columns.)

| Exodus Passover Lamb | Jesus, the Lamb of God |
|--|--|
| Choose a lamb and bring it into your home on the 10th day of the month. | Palm Sunday: Jesus chose himself and willingly came to Jerusalem. |
| Lamb must have no flaw. | I Peter: “Jesus is the unblemished Lamb.” He was innocent and never sinned, and so he could die for our sins. |
| Kill and put the blood on the door frame of your house. If a home didn’t do this, the firstborn son would be killed. | Jesus’ blood pays the price for our sins. We need to “apply” the blood by faith in him. If we believe that Jesus is God and died for us, we are protected from judgment and death. |
| At judgment time, God only looked for and saw the blood of the lamb. Whoever obeyed in faith would not be judged. | When I stand at judgment day, God will look for faith, and only see Jesus’s blood—not my sins. |

You may be familiar with these last two parts of our meal because we participate in this at communion. For someone who has put his or her faith in Jesus, this is something we do to remember what he did for us on the cross.

Afikomen (“That which comes after”)

(Have everyone try to say this in Greek – “ah-fee—koh-men.”) Remember how we broke the middle piece of matzah and wrapped it in white napkin? Remember how Jesus’ body was crucified, wrapped up, and buried? Well, as a symbol of his resurrection, we now bring back that piece of matzah (representing his body)! This is when Jesus said, “This is my body, which is given for you.” (Choose one child to get up and find the hidden matzah.) Break off a small piece of your matzah and eat it, remembering that Jesus said “this is my body, which is given for you.”

The Third Cup – The Cup of Redemption

In the Bible, a cup represents judgment and wrath. God has every right to be angry with us for our sins. The book of Romans says that we were his enemies—not a good place to be. But God took all that anger/wrath that he had for our sins, and he poured it out on his only Son, Jesus. Jesus said of this cup, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you.” Take another sip of the juice.

The Fourth Cup – The Cup of Praise or The Elijah Cup

We can PRAISE God that he loves us, and that just as he saved Israel from slavery, he also sent his Son to save us from our sins. Take another sip of the juice.

Shalom: Peace

Romans 5:1 says “We can have PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” I hope you guys enjoyed learning about Passover and all that it symbolizes. The Israelites celebrated the Passover because they remembered that by obeying God and spreading the blood of the lamb over their door, their sons’ lives were saved. They celebrated that God kept his promise to them and saved them from a life of slavery.

Jesus is like the lamb at Passover. He was perfect and holy. He paid for our sins with his blood. All we have to do is believe that he paid this price for us and we can live forever in heaven with him. Today, we celebrate that miracle. Let’s pray. (Pray, thanking Jesus for his sacrifice and the peace we have in him.)

