

LESSON 3

THE PASSOVER

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Passover Lamb

The Passover refers to the offering sacrificed for the exemption of the Hebrew slaves from God's tenth plague upon Egypt (the death of the firstborn). It was a manifestation of God's protection, mercy, and deliverance.

The Passover lamb was a prefiguration of the Lord Jesus, who would come to deliver humanity from sin and eternal death (Jn 1:29; 1 Cor 5:7b). The sacrificial lamb (representing Jesus) had to be without blemish, whole, and without any broken bones (Ex 12:5, 46; Jn 19:36).

Leaven

Leaven or yeast is a cooking ingredient that causes dough to ferment and rise. In a spiritual context, leaven represents sin, corruption, malice, wickedness, and hypocrisy (Mt 16:12; Lk 12:1). In the Old Testament times, leaven could not be part of offerings (Lev 2:4-5; 7:12; 10:12). Today, we are called to eliminate all spiritual yeast and replace it with "the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor 5:8).

Holy Communion

Today, we no longer celebrate the Passover. Instead, we periodically participate in the Holy Communion in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins (Lk 22:17-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25). Through the Holy Spirit, the grape juice is transformed into the Lord's blood, while the unleavened bread is transformed into the Lord's body.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Students at this age are quite simple and straightforward in their thinking. They may not readily recognize relationships between events that occurred during different periods of time. They may also have some difficulty understanding the concepts of symbolism and prefiguration.

As teachers, our aim is to help them see the wonderful plan of salvation that is prophesied in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament. In order to demonstrate the flow of events, we must explain connections between characters, objects, and events in both sections of the Bible. Although some of these concepts may be abstract, we can make use of the students' imaginations to help them grasp the main ideas.

BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 12:1-28; 43-50

BIBLE TRUTH

The Passover lamb sacrificed in the Old Testament was a prefiguration (representation) of Jesus.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand why the Passover was established in the Old Testament.
2. To understand that the Passover lamb represented the Lord Jesus.
3. To understand the meaning of Holy Communion.

MEMORY VERSE

"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."

(1 Corinthians 5:7b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Loving, heavenly Father, we thank You for letting us come together to learn about the Passover. In today's lesson, please help us understand how the Israelites celebrated Passover, and how the Passover Lamb represents You. Also, help us learn why it is important to remember Your sacrifice by participating in the Holy Communion. Please open our minds and hearts so we can store Your wonderful words. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

- firstborn:** the first child born into a family
- blemish:** mark, flaw, imperfection
- sacrifice:** to give up something, such as your life
- unleavened:** without yeast or leaven
- bitter:** acid or sour taste
- memorial:** reminder, monument, commemoration
- feast:** celebration
- hyssop:** a type of plant
- circumcise:** to remove the prepuce of (a male), esp. as a religious rite
- foreigner:** a person from a foreign country, region, or tribe
- native:** a person born in the local country, region, or tribe
- congregation:** church members, baptized members

REVIEW

Boys and girls, last week we talked about the different plagues that God sent on the Egyptians. Moses and Aaron had come before Pharaoh many times to ask him to let the Israelites leave, but he would not listen.

In total, God sent ten plagues. With your fingers, show me how many of the plagues you remember. What were some of these plague? [Call on three or four students and list the answers on the board.] You all have very good memories! The plagues included blood, frogs, lice, flies, disease of livestock, boils, hail, locusts, and darkness. The tenth plague was the death of all the firstborn children and animals in Egypt. The firstborn is the first son. Why would God send these plagues on Egypt? God sent the plagues to show His power, to judge against the Egyptian idols, and to convince Pharaoh to let His chosen people go.

BIBLE STORY

The Passover

To prepare God's people for the plague of the firstborn, God told Moses and Aaron how everyone should prepare for the Passover. Boys and girls, can you guess why this feast or celebration was called the Passover? Let's think of the word "Passover." It is made up of two words: "pass" and "over." [Write the two words on the board.] Are you wondering who was passing over what? Well, let's continue with our story and we will find out soon.

[Put the picture "Lamb" on the board. Please refer to the end of this lesson.] Each family had to get a male lamb that was without blemish. Blemishes are marks or flaws, like a broken leg or some type of illness. If the family was very small, they could share one lamb with their neighbors. The lamb was killed (sacrificed) on the fourteenth day of the first month. As a sacrifice, the lamb had to give up its life. [Put the picture "Blood on the Door" on the board.] They had to use a hyssop plant to put blood on the door. The lamb's blood had to be put on the three sides of the doorframe. It went on the two side doorposts and on the top beam. [Point to the corresponding areas on the picture.] Nobody could leave the house until the morning.

The blood on the doors would be a sign for God to "pass over" their homes during the night. When God passed over, the plague on the firstborn would not hurt His chosen people, because the people who were inside the houses that had been marked with the blood of the lamb would be saved from death.

What do you think they did with the body of the lamb? They roasted the whole body in the fire. Do you know what roasting is? Roasting is cooking meat over an open fire until it is done.

Unleavened Bread and Bitter Herbs

They also had to eat unleavened bread and bitter herbs. [Put the pictures of "Unleavened Bread" and "Bitter Herbs" on the board.] Do you notice anything special about the unleavened bread? We can see in the picture that unleavened bread is flat. That is because it does not have any leaven. Leaven is used in cooking to make dough rise. Leaven is used to make bread and cakes, and it causes them to be fluffy. Why was leaven not included in the Passover meal (and in other Old Testament offerings)? It is because leaven represents what is wicked and bad. Some

wicked things include lying, being a hypocrite (saying one thing but doing the opposite), or teaching false things about God. Having spiritual leaven makes a person wicked or evil. As children of God, we should not let wickedness be a part of our words or actions. Instead, we should be honest with our words, and kind with our actions.

From the fourteenth day of the first month, the Israelites had to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days. They had to keep it as a spiritual convocation and focus on worshipping God. They could not work during the first and seventh day, except to prepare food. They had to eat the unleavened bread for seven days. They could not have any leaven in their homes during that time. How were God's people told to eat the Passover meal? [Put the picture of "Passover Attire" on the board.] They had to wear belts on their waists [point to the belt], sandals on their feet, and keep their staffs in their hands [point to the staff]. Boys and girls, isn't it interesting that they had to wear all these things just so they could eat the Passover meal? One reason that they had to do this was to remember that their home was not in Egypt. They had to be ready to go to the land that God would give them after saving them from Pharaoh. Like the Israelites, we also need to remember that this world is not our home. Our home is in heaven, which God has promised to those who obey Him and are saved. The Israelites also had to eat the meal quickly. The families had to eat everything in their homes during the night, and whatever they could not finish had to be burned with fire.

During the night, the Lord killed the firstborn children and animals of the Egyptians. He passed over the houses of the Israelites, which were marked with the lambs' blood on the door. The Lord told the people to keep the Passover in the future as a memorial for all the generations. A memorial is a celebration or a thing (such as a statue) that reminds us of something.

Can you guess what the Passover would remind them of? The Passover would remind God's people that He was merciful and powerful, and that He had saved them from the plague of the firstborn in Egypt. They would remember God's great works even when they came into the land God had promised them. They would tell their children the story of God's Passover.

Who could eat the Passover meal? It depended on whether or not they had received circumcision. Boys and girls, do any of you know what circumcision is or what it is for? Only boys had circumcision. To circumcise is to cut away a small part of the skin in a boy's private area. Even though circumcision was painful, this was God's way to help His people be separated from other groups and be holy. Circumcision showed that there was a promise or covenant between God and His people.

The Passover Lamb Represents the Lord Jesus

Why is it important for us to learn about the Passover? Do we celebrate the Passover today? The Passover is

important because it reminds us that God saved His people from death through the blood of a lamb. The Passover lamb represents the Lord Jesus. He sacrificed His life for us. It is through His sacrifice and His blood that our sins are washed away. Because Jesus became our Passover lamb, we are saved from eternal death. Today, we partake of the Holy Communion instead of the Passover. Through the Holy Spirit, the grape juice and the unleavened bread are spiritualized and become Jesus' blood and body. Just like the believers ate of the Passover lamb, today the baptized believers eat of the Holy Communion, both of which represent the body of Christ. Can someone partake of the Holy Communion if they have not been baptized? No. That's right! They have to be baptized first so their sins can be washed away. Then, they will be pure and they can be a part of Jesus' body through the Holy Communion.

The Holy Communion

Now that we know that the Holy Communion is our Passover today, what kind of attitude should we have before we eat and drink of it? We should repent of any sins. Maybe we lied, or we acted badly when we were angry, or we disobeyed our parents. Some believers that sinned against God and did not repent quickly before they took of the Holy Communion got very sick or even died. God does not like when we are still holding on to our sin. If we do not repent, we are eating our own sins during Holy Communion. This is why it is very, very important for us to ask the Lord Jesus to forgive us for these sins. We should also make a promise not to make the same mistakes again.

Another thing we should remember before eating and drinking of the Holy Communion is to be humble and thankful. We need to remember that Jesus suffered a lot and gave His life up for us so we could have eternal life. Because of His love and His sacrifice, we need to praise Him with our words and please Him with our actions. We should thank God for each and every one of the blessings He has given us. We can also make a promise to be better Christians by helping others and obeying God's commandments. God will be very pleased if we have this attitude when we prepare to take the Holy Communion.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **What was the last (tenth) plague to come upon Egypt?** The plague of the death of the firstborn.
2. **What does the Passover commemorate?** The Lord passing over the homes that were marked with the blood of a lamb.
3. **What type of animal had to be sacrificed for Passover?** A male lamb without blemish or broken bones.
4. **What did the Israelites have to do with the blood of the lamb?** Using hyssop, they had to put the blood on the doorposts and the door beam.
5. **The bread they ate had to be unleavened. What did leaven represent?** Wickedness and evil.
6. **How were they to eat the Passover meal?** Quickly, while wearing a belt, sandals, and holding a staff in their hands.
7. **Who could eat of the Passover meal?** The Israelites and their guests, but only if they had been circumcised.
8. **Why was the Passover a memorial celebration?** It reminded the Israelites of God's power and mercy, and how He had saved them from death in Egypt.
9. **Who did the Passover lamb represent?** Jesus Christ.
10. **What do we celebrate today instead of the Passover?** The Holy Communion.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." (1 Corinthians 5:7b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Jesus died on the cross as a Passover lamb so we could be saved.

We can learn a great deal of spiritual teachings from the Passover.

1. They were to kill the lamb (Ex 12:6). This was to prophesize the death of Jesus Christ. The Lamb of God has been slain, crucified for the sins of the whole world.
2. They were to apply blood to the doorposts (Ex 12:7). Only the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse our sins through water baptism. We are set free from the judgment and wrath of God that is to come upon the world. The blood, therefore, must be on the door of the Israelites.
3. For seven days, no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native-born (Ex 12:19). Yeast represents sin in our lives. Why would God use yeast to symbolize sin? [Show students a picture of a loaf of bread and unleavened bread.] The loaf of bread has yeast; that's what makes it rise and puff up. The unleavened bread has no yeast and so it is flatter. Sin acts in our lives, in many of the same ways that yeast works in a loaf of bread. Yeast causes bread to mold and decay from the inside out. If you leave a loaf of bread out for too long, what happens to it? It gets moldy. Leavened bread will eventually decay and rot because of the yeast within it. In the same way, sin has the power to cause our lives and our homes to decay and to rot. Sin destroys us, and that's why God hates sin.
4. They were to stay in the house (Ex 12:22). Verse 22 says, "And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning." This means that we are to stay in the church. We are to stay in fellowship with God and with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The church is the body of Jesus Christ. It is a house of prayer, exhortation, and encouragement. Also, when we partake of the Holy Communion, we must take it within the church, not outside.

5. Jesus was meek and obedient like a lamb, even when things were difficult. One way we can show our meekness and obedience is by doing what we are told without arguing or giving excuses. Jesus is watching and He is joyful when we are following His example.
6. Today, we partake of the Holy Communion instead of Passover. To prepare for the Holy Communion, we need to repent by praying and asking God to cleanse our heart. This way, we can be worthy to partake of His body and His blood. We should also have a thankful heart whenever we partake of the Holy Communion.

Life Application

- Love God by praying to God and reading the Bible every day
- Repay God's love by being an obedient child to my parents
- Repay God's love by being a good helper at home, at school, and at church
- Repay God's love by being kind, gentle, loving, and patient
- Love God by telling others about Jesus; invite others to come to church

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

Word Search

Horizontal (from top to bottom)

Passover, firstborn, leaven, plague, blood

Vertical (from left to right)

bitter herbs, staff, lamb, Jesus, belt

ACTIVITIES

1

Lamb of God

Objective: To remind students that Jesus is the Lamb of God.

Materials

- Lamb picture (see "Lamb" at the end of this lesson for a sample)
- Markers/colored pencils
- Colorful cotton balls, white cotton balls
- Glue

Preparations

1. Make enlarged copies of the lamb picture so that every student has their own sheet.
2. Place the cotton balls in two large bowls, one for the white ones and one for the colorful ones.
3. Prepare enough glue bottles for the students.

Instructions

1. Discuss the characteristics of a lamb. List them on the board. Make the connection between the characteristics of a lamb and Jesus' characteristics.
2. Ask for suggestions on ways to follow Jesus' example of being like a lamb at home, at school, or at church.
3. Distribute the lamb pictures to the students and have students copy down the characteristics of a lamb onto the page.
4. Have students glue colorful or white cotton balls onto the body of the sheep to make its fur.
5. Students can also color the picture with markers or colored pencils.

2**Holy Communion**

Objective: To remind students to have the right attitude when partaking of the Holy Communion.

Materials

- Oven/stove
- Baking pan/non-stick frying pan
- Flour
- Grapes
- Bowls (one for flour, one for grapes)
- Plates
- Blender
- Pitcher of water
- Cups

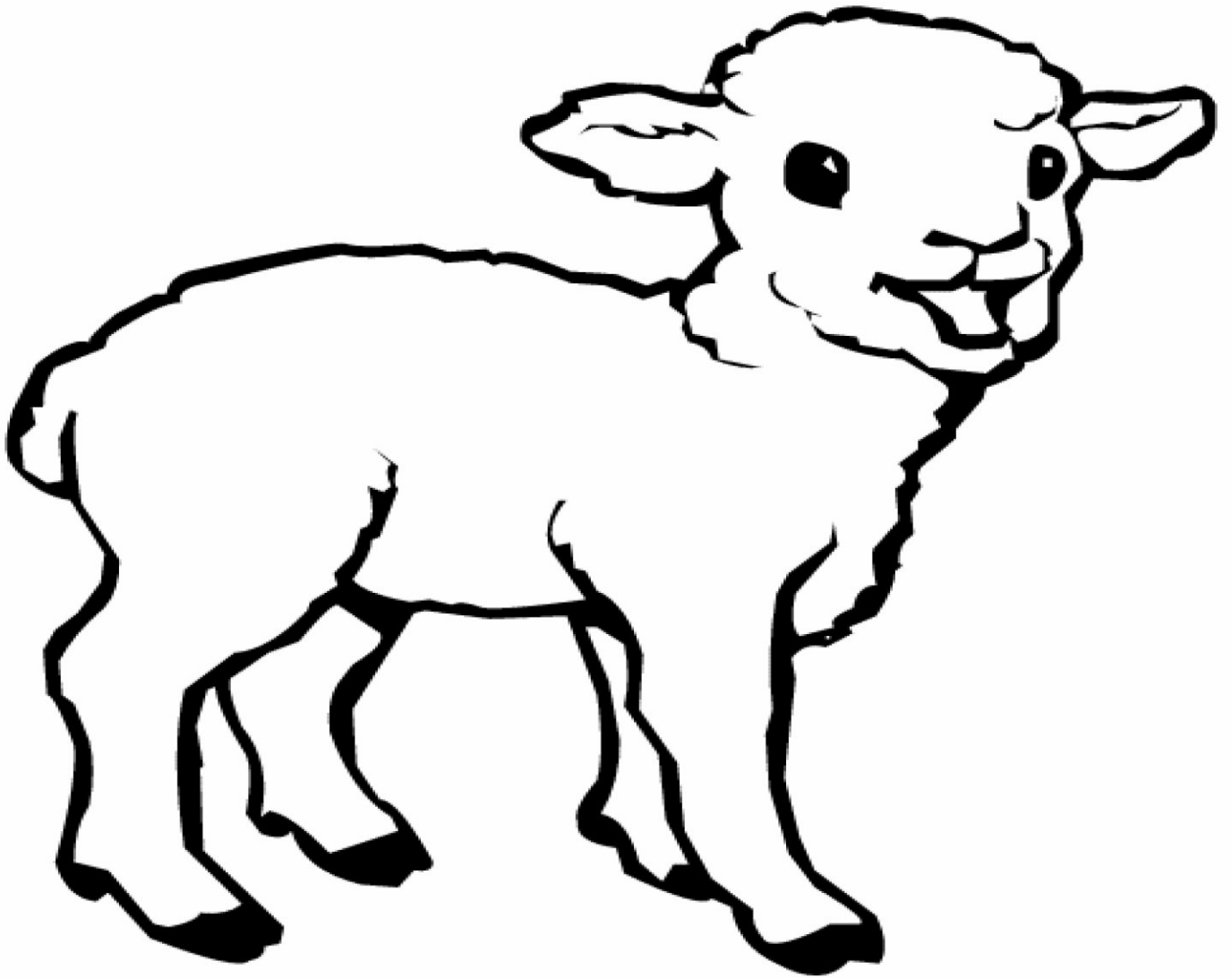
Preparations

1. Set out two work stations, one for the unleavened bread and one for the grape juice. For the unleavened bread station, place flour in a bowl, and have a pitcher of water. Prepare to heat an oven or a non-stick frying pan over a stove. If necessary, cover the table with plastic wrapping. For the grape juice station, wash the grapes and set them in a bowl. Set up a blender.
2. Depending on time, you may need to bake or cook some unleavened bread beforehand (since students may only have time to make the dough but not to bake or cook it).

Instructions

[Note: Explain to the students that this activity is only a representation, and not the actual sacrament.]

1. Divide the class into two groups and assign them to the work stations. Make sure that there is at least one teacher to supervise each work station.
2. For the unleavened bread, instruct students to mix the flour with a little bit of water. Then, they can knead the mixture until it becomes dough. The dough can then be placed on a pan or in the oven to be cooked or baked. [If time is limited, simply replace the raw dough with the cooked or baked unleavened bread you prepared beforehand.]
3. For the grape juice, instruct students to place the grapes inside the blender and liquefy the fruit.
4. Pray together to ask God to bless the bread and the juice. [Remind students to have the right attitudes before partaking of the unleavened bread. Tell them that this is the body of Jesus. God is a holy God and He knows everything that we think about, say, and do. If we have done anything wrong, we must repent and ask God to forgive our sins. Most importantly, we should ask God to give us the strength to overcome our weaknesses.]
5. Tear pieces of the unleavened bread and place on plates for each student.
6. Pour the juice into cups. Before distributing each cup, remind them that when we partake of the Holy Communion, this grape juice spiritually represents the blood of Jesus Christ. We must search our hearts and mind to see if we need to repent before partaking of it.
7. Distribute a cup to each student. After partaking of the bread and juice, clean up as a class.



Lamb



Blood on the Door



Loaf of
Bread



Unleavened
Bread



Bitter
Herbs



Passover
Attire

E1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 3—The Passover
Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: The Passover lamb sacrificed in the Old Testament was a prefiguration (representation) of Jesus.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To understand why the Passover was established in the Old Testament.
 2. To understand that the Passover lamb represented the Lord Jesus.
 3. To understand the meaning of Holy Communion.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(1 Corinthians 5:7b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Instructions: Find these words in the word search.

Passover Firstborn Leaven Plague Blood
 Bitter Herbs Staff Lamb Jesus Belt



Life Application

Jesus sacrificed Himself as the Passover lamb for us. What are five ways you can show that you are thankful for His loving sacrifice?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____