

LESSON 4

KING HEZEKIAH WORSHIPS GOD

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Hezekiah

Over a century had passed since the reforms of Joash, and the country had gone back to idolatry. Hezekiah's father, Ahaz, had worshipped heathen gods. He even made a copy of one of the Syrian altars and set it up in front of God's holy temple (2 Kgs 16:10-11). He also made images of Baal and sacrificed one of his sons in the fire (2 Kgs 16:3). Hezekiah must have witnessed this when he was very young.

Hezekiah became king at the age of twenty-five. Unlike his father, he wanted to do what was right in the eyes of God (2 Chr 29:2). He cleaned the temple and restored the broken vessels. Then, he called the priests and rulers together for a sin offering. Later on, Hezekiah brought his own gifts to God's house that prompted the people to give tithes. He also tried to reunite the northern and southern kingdoms by asking everyone to go to Jerusalem to observe the Passover. Hezekiah was a king known to put complete trust in the Lord. In a heartfelt prayer while on his deathbed, he pleaded with God to allow him to live longer so that he could help the people. God answered his prayer by adding fifteen years to his life (2 Kgs 20:2-6).

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Hezekiah was a king who led the people back to God. He had the heart to follow God, and he took action by reopening and repairing the temple, eliminating the worship of idols, observing the Passover, and offering tithe. Through his actions, Hezekiah set an example for the people to follow. He demonstrated what it meant to truly worship God.

The students in Elementary 1 grow up quickly during their time in E1. In the past, they may have associated worship with coming to church, singing hymns, and listening to Bible stories. But, as your students grow older, they begin to understand more about what is involved in worshipping God. Since God is a spirit, we must worship Him in spirit and in truth, with our hearts and according to the Bible. When we worship God in the spirit, we must have a heart of sincerity and obedience. For instance, if we sing hymns with sincerity, the worship will be meaningful and not simply a formality. With proper guidance, your students will understand what it means to worship the Lord in spirit. It will be wonderful when they can set a good example for others, like Hezekiah did when he led Judah to return to God.

BIBLE TEXT

2 Chronicles 29; 30; 31:1-6

BIBLE TRUTH

Hezekiah led the people to worship God by praying, singing, and offering.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To worship God in spirit and in truth.

MEMORY VERSE

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

(John 4:24)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Thank you, Lord, for giving us the Sabbath so that we can rest and worship You. Please help us to learn more about how we can worship You. Let us also learn from the example of King Hezekiah so that we can give glory to Your name in everything that we do. Please help us keep Your words in our hearts at all times. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

- purify:** to clean, sanctify
Passover: a festival celebrating the deliverance of the Israelites from the land of Egypt
tithe: to offer one's earnings to God (usually one-tenth)
covenant: an agreement, promise
negligent: failing to take care of or pay attention to something

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about King Uzziah and how his pride caused him to lose all his honor and glory. In the beginning, was King Uzziah a good king or a bad king? (He was a good king.) He followed God and did right in the His eyes. For this reason, God blessed Uzziah and allowed him to prosper. Uzziah had many mighty men of valor that would fight for him, and he also had many towers built to protect Jerusalem. Under God's guidance, the kingdom of Judah became powerful and strong, and other countries even began giving him gifts because they were afraid. However, all this power and honor would be the cause of Uzziah's downfall. The stronger the kingdom of Judah became, the prouder Uzziah got. One day, he decided to go into the temple to burn incense to God. This was a sin, as only priests could burn incense to God. What happened when the priests tried to stop Uzziah? (He became angry and refused to listen.) After Uzziah refused to listen to the priests because he was proud, God struck him with leprosy. From that point on, Uzziah no longer had the honor and glory that he used to enjoy. As a leper, he had to live away from the people, so he spent the rest of his life in an isolated house, far from his palace. We learned that it is important not to let our accomplishments cause us to become proud.

BIBLE STORY

Hezekiah Becomes King

King Joash followed God and obeyed His laws, but his great-grandson did not. His great-grandson was King Ahaz, and he was one of the worst kings in Judah. King Ahaz worshipped idols and even sacrificed one of his own sons to the false gods. He also closed the temple so that the people of Judah could not go there to worship the Lord! For us today, that would be like closing the church! Can you imagine not being able to go to church to worship God? After ruling the kingdom for sixteen years, King Ahaz died, and his son, Hezekiah, became the king.

Hezekiah was very different from his father. He knew that it was important to worship God. Soon after he became king, Hezekiah opened the doors of the temple and repaired them. Since the temple hadn't been used for a long time, there was a lot of work that needed to be done. There were unclean things in the temple that needed to be removed and the temple needed to be purified. So, King Hezekiah called the Levites and priests to tell them what to do.

The Temple Is Cleansed

When Ahaz was king, he did not let the priests carry out their duties in the temple. But after Hezekiah became king, he called the priests back to work for God. Hezekiah said, "Listen to me, Levites! Purify yourselves and the temple. Our fathers worshipped idols and it displeased God. I want

to make a covenant with God so that He will not be angry with us. Do not be negligent. God has chosen you to serve Him." The Levites listened to King Hezekiah and followed God's commands. They took action by purifying themselves and cleansing the temple. Then, the priests cleansed the inner section of the temple and removed the unclean things that they found in the temple. They cleansed the altar that was used to offer sacrifices. They also cleansed the table of showbread. They also brought back and cleansed the items that were used to worship God, which Ahaz had put away before. They cleansed the temple and finished on the sixteenth day. Then, the priests told King Hezekiah that the temple was ready.

The People Praise God

King Hezekiah woke up early and gathered the rulers of the city to go to the temple. King Hezekiah told the priests to offer sacrifices to God. They made sacrifices to ask God to forgive all of the people for their sins. When the priests offered the sacrifices, the Levites played cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps. The trumpets sounded, the people worshipped God, and the singers sang. The music continued until they finished offering the sacrifice. The Levites joyfully sang a special hymn to praise God. Everyone worshipped God together. They were all joyful because God listened to their prayers and accepted their offerings.

An Invitation to Celebrate the Passover

After the reopening of the temple, King Hezekiah thought about other ways to lead the people back to God. After the temple was cleansed, some people went to worship God. But, there were still many people who did not go to the temple to worship God. King Hezekiah decided to invite the Israelites to the Passover. Students, do you remember what the Passover was? [Allow students to respond.] The Passover was a festival that the Israelites celebrated to remember how God had delivered the Israelites out of Egypt many years ago. The people had not held the Passover for many years. So, King Hezekiah decided to write letters to people all over the country to ask them to come to Jerusalem to worship God and celebrate the Passover. He told his messengers to take the letters and read them to the people in every town.

The messengers hurried off and did as the king commanded them. They read the letters to the people that said, "You have forgotten to worship God. Come back to God and He will help you. Don't be stubborn. God will help the whole country. Come and celebrate the Passover together." After the messengers read the letters, some people did not listen. Instead, they laughed at the messengers and teased them. They thought that it was ridiculous to travel all the way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. But, other people who heard the message listened and decided to go to Jerusalem to keep the Passover. These people realized that it was important to obey God. They packed some clothes and food for their trip and traveled to Jerusalem. Soon, many people gathered in Jerusalem to worship God.

The People Celebrate the Passover

Now, it was time for the Passover to begin. The people went to the temple to repent. They confessed their sins to God, and were truly sorry for what they had done. For seven days, the people went to the temple and worshipped. They prayed, and praised God every day. They were very happy. When the seven days were over,

the people were so joyful from worshipping God that they did not want to leave.

"Let's stay for another seven days," they said. "We will continue to worship God." Everyone agreed and for seven more days, they worshipped God at the temple. The people were very joyful. They had not experienced anything like this before, because the king before Hezekiah had forgotten about the Lord. Now they were together again in the presence of God. The priests blessed the people, for and God heard their voices. Their prayer had reached heaven.

King Hezekiah Gives Tithe

It was wonderful for King Hezekiah and the people to worship God. But, Hezekiah knew there was one more thing he had to do. God had commanded the Israelites to give tithe but the people had forgotten to do this over the years. It was time for King Hezekiah to remind them. So, King Hezekiah set the example by offering the tithe first. He brought many sheep and cattle to the temple. Then, the people also began to offer to God. They brought many things, such as grain, other crops of the land, wine, oil, honey, oxen, and sheep to the priests. It was their way of giving a portion of what they had to God. God was pleased with what the people did. King Hezekiah had done what he could to help the people return to God. Because the people listened and came to worship the Lord, He blessed them greatly. The people thanked God for His guidance and love.

From today's Bible story, we learned that King Hezekiah and the people worshipped God with a sincere heart. They did many things to show that they truly returned to God. King Hezekiah cleansed the temple soon after he became king and led the people back to God. He also led the people to keep the Passover and repent for their sins. When all of the people worshipped with a sincere heart, they were very joyful. Today, let us also worship God with a sincere heart, and we will also be joyful.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1. Before Hezekiah became king, how did the people displease God?** They worshipped idols and disobeyed God.
- 2. What did King Hezekiah cleanse?** The temple.
- 3. Why did King Hezekiah send messengers throughout the land?** To invite the people to Jerusalem to keep the Passover.
- 4. When the people heard what the messengers said, what did they do?** Some laughed at the messengers and teased them. Others listened and went to Jerusalem. They knew it was important to keep the Passover.
- 5. Why hadn't the Israelites celebrated Passover for many, many years?** The previous kings did not follow God, so they did not lead the people to celebrate the Passover.
- 6. Before the Levites purified the temple, what did they do?** They purified themselves.
- 7. How did the Israelites feel when they were celebrating the Passover?** The Israelites were so joyful. They even kept the Passover for seven more days.
- 8. What did King Hezekiah lead the people to do after they kept the Passover?** To offer tithe.
- 9. How do we offer tithe today?** We offer one-tenth of our earnings to church each month.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

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

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. D
2. B
3. False; he didn't want people to worship God.
4. idols
5. themselves
6. seven, joyful
7. tithe
8. They received joy from worshipping God.
9. To remember how God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt.
10. Answers may vary. Possible answers: pray earnestly to God knowing that He listens to prayers, listen to Bible stories/read the Bible to learn more about God, sing hymns with a heart of praise and thanksgiving, etc.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

How do we worship God in truth?

The Bible

What is the truth? The Bible is the truth. Everything that we learn about God is from the Bible. That is why at church we only learn about stories from the Bible. From these stories, we learn about God's teachings so that we can put them into practice.

How do we worship God in spirit?



1. Have a sincere heart by preparing our hearts

We should prepare our hearts to worship God. We should repent for any wrong things that we have done. If we were lazy or didn't listen to our parents, we should ask God for forgive us for sinning against Him. We should also ask God to cleanse our hearts (Ps 51:2).

2. Sing hymns to praise God for all that He has done

Ps 100:1-2 "Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing."

Col 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Eph 5:19 "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."



3. Worship God with a reverent and thankful heart

When we come to church on the Sabbath, we need to have a reverent heart, which means we must respect and honor God.



What kinds of thoughts should we have? Discuss one of the items from the list below. Ask your students what other things they can be thankful for on the Sabbath. If they can't think of anything, help them out by using the list below.

Let us praise and thank God for:

- His beautiful creation (Ps 24:1-2)
- Dying for us on the cross
- Giving us salvation
- Promising and giving us the precious Holy Spirit
- Giving us a church where we can worship Him
- How we are alive
- How we can serve Him

Because of all the blessings and grace that God has given us, we need to worship Him with a joyful heart! Psalm 28:7 records: "The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him."

When we enter the chapel, we should also have a heart of reverence. Psalm 46:10 records: "Be still, and know that I am God." Therefore, when we go to the chapel, we should have a calm heart and walk quietly. In addition, Romans 14:11 records that "every knee shall bow to" God. Not only do we worship Him in Spirit, we worship Him with our totality. When we pray to our heavenly Father, we are worshipping Him in spirit. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (Jn 4:24).

4. Offer to the Lord God

Lk 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Mal 3:10 "'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,' says the LORD of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.'"

2 Cor 9:7 "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."



5. Serve one another

1 Sam 12:24 "Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you."

Mt 25:35-40 " 'For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 'Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." ' "



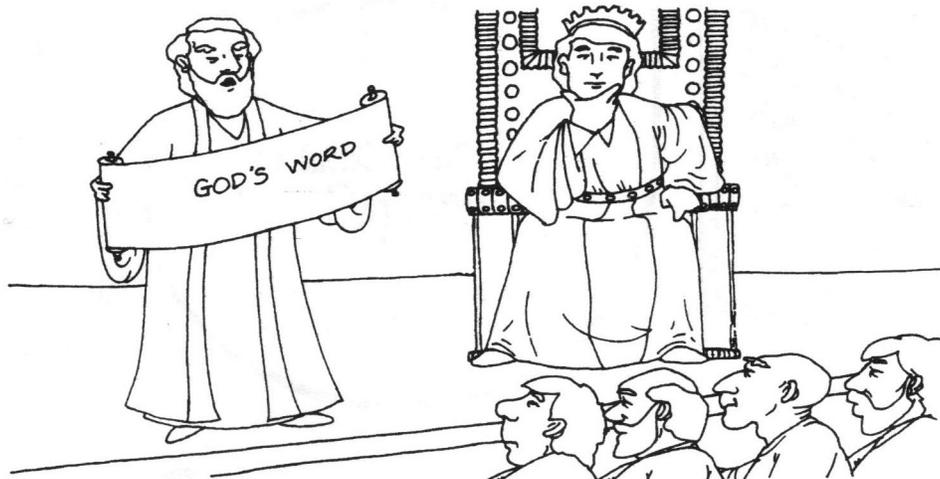
ACTIVITY

1

Worship God**Objective:** To review the way the people of Judah worshipped God.**Instructions:** Fill in the blanks with a word from the word list. Look at the list carefully! You can use a word twice. There are extra words that don't belong in the blanks.**Word Bank**

offered	tithe	people	prayed	Jerusalem
Passover		joyful	worship	jumped
sang		cleansed	celebrate	sad
Levites				

1. King Hezekiah went to the temple to _____ God.
2. The _____ and priests _____ the temple.
3. The messengers read an important letter from King Hezekiah to the _____.
4. The people went to _____ to celebrate the _____.
5. The people were very _____ when they celebrated the _____.
6. The singers _____ songs of praise to God.
7. People _____ _____ to God.



2

My Hymn Book

Objective: To encourage the students to sing praises to God.

Preparations

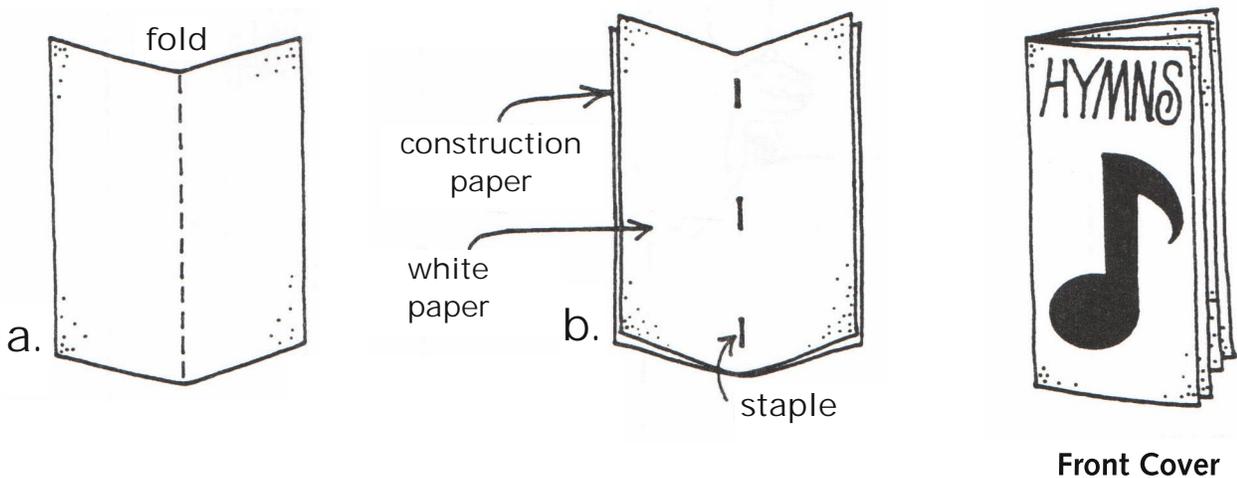
Trace the music note onto cardstock or an index card to make a template. Cut the music note out. Make as many templates as you need.

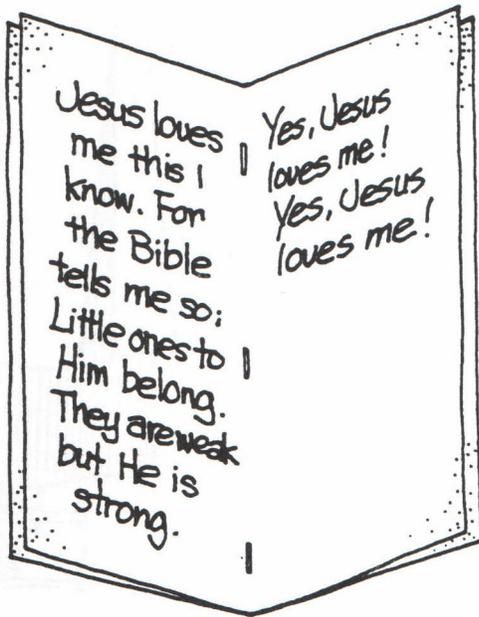
Materials

- Card stock or index cards
- Construction paper
- White paper
- Stapler
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue

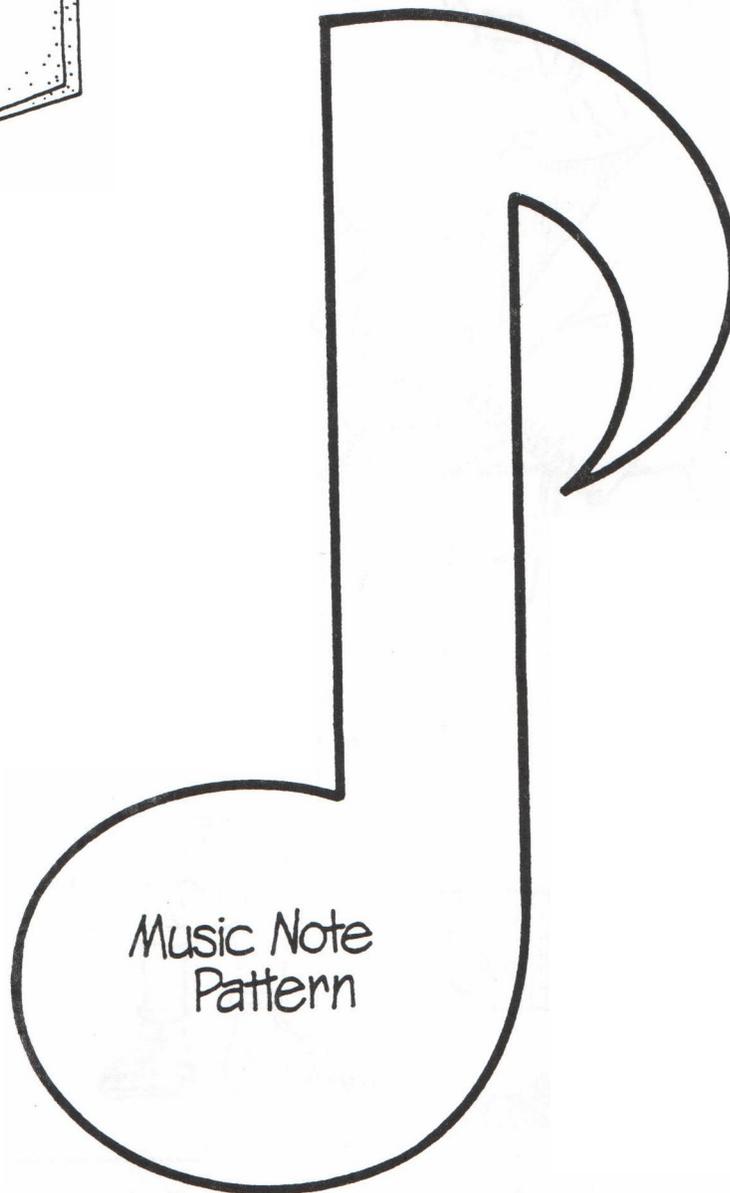
Instructions

1. Explain to the students that they will be making their own hymn book.
2. Give each student a music note.
3. Have the students trace the music note onto a piece of construction paper.
4. Cut the music note out and put it aside.
5. Give each student a piece of construction paper (for the cover of the book) and several sheets of white paper (for the "pages" of the book). Make sure the music note and book cover are different colors.
6. Fold the construction paper and white paper in half.
7. Then, place the white paper inside the construction paper and staple them together to make a book.
8. Glue the music note onto the front cover.
9. Have the students write "Hymns" or "Praise" on the front cover.
10. On the white pages, have the students write the lyrics of hymns and Bible songs that they can sing. (Encourage them by letting them choose their favorite hymns and songs.)
11. The students can use crayons or markers to decorate their hymn book as desired.





Inside



E1 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 4—King Hezekiah Worships God

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Hezekiah led the people to worship God by praying, singing, and offering.

Lesson Objective: To worship God in spirit and in truth.

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.

(John 4:24)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : What happened after the temple was cleansed?
 - a. The priests offered sacrifices.
 - b. The people who were at the temple worshipped God.
 - c. The Levites played instruments and the singers sang.
 - d. All of the above

2. ____ : When King Hezekiah's messengers read the letters to the people, _____.
 - a. They all laughed at the messengers.
 - b. Some of them laughed at the messengers but others went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.
 - c. Everyone held the Passover at home.
 - d. Everyone went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

True or False

3. King Ahaz closed the temple because it needed to be repaired. _____

Fill In the Blank

joyful	themselves	tithe	idols	seven
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4. King Ahaz worshipped _____.
5. Before the Levites purified the temple, they cleansed _____.
6. The Israelites celebrated the Passover for _____ extra days because they were so _____.
7. The people offered _____.

Short Answer

8. Why were the people so joyful when they celebrated the Passover?

9. Why did God command the Israelites to celebrate the Passover?

10. How can you worship God with meaning? How can you prepare your heart to worship God? What is something you can be thankful for on the Sabbath?

