

LESSON 5

FEASTS (PART 1)



OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the meaning behind the Passover feast and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
2. To understand the link between the festivals and our practices, namely Holy Communion and Spiritual Convocation, today.

MEMORY VERSE

"In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'"

(1 Corinthians 11:25)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for letting us attend the class to learn more about His saving grace.
2. Ask God to transform our lives through His Spirit so that we will listen to and obey His teachings.
3. Ask God to let us understand the meaning of the festivals so that we can also have a solemn and sincere heart to honor Him.



Overview

1. Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

- a. Historical background and the first Passover
- b. Spiritual meaning behind the Passover regulations
- c. The Feast of Unleavened Bread

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Sacrament of Holy Communion

3. Life Application

- a. A Gift Without Blemish
- b. Keeping Ourselves Free of Leaven

4. Activity—Offering Our Best to God



Background Knowledge for Teachers

When the Israelites were in Egypt, they were slaves and had no freedom to worship God or to take time off to celebrate and enjoy each other's company. So, when God led the Israelites out of Egypt, He established several festivals to remind them of their salvation and to give them an opportunity to celebrate their new wonderful life that He had given them.

The festivals are not only an event from long ago, but also an excellent opportunity for us to learn about God's salvation. Learning more about them will help to compel us to keep God's sacraments today with a solemn and sincere heart.



Reaching Out to Your Students

A class on festivals may, for a moment, seem like a monotonous history class about ceremonies that were held long ago. However, sharing with the students the interesting and intricate details of each festival, and the meaning behind each one, can encourage the students to see how our good behavior is a direct reply to God's providence and salvation.



Opener

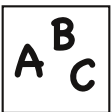
5 Minutes

Let's imagine that you have read that there will be a festival in your local neighborhood. What is the first thing you picture in your mind? What do you think you'd see? Why are there festivals? [Teachers: If possible, prepare photos of common scenes from modern festivals.]

Did you know that the word "festival" is a Latin word that means "holy"? Now that you know the origin of this word, how do you think this word was created? [Teachers: If possible, prepare illustrations of what the festivals in the Bible may have looked like.]

Well, today we're going to go back to the root of it all, when God first established festivals for the Israelites.

There are seven festivals mentioned in both Deuteronomy 16 and Leviticus 23; today, we'll be learning about Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Most importantly, we'll be talking about how each of these festivals is very important to us today as God's children and as Christians in this world.



Vocabulary

festival: a day or time of religious or other celebration, marked by feasting, ceremonies, or other observances

unleavened: containing no leaven or leavening agent

leaven: an agent, such as yeast, that causes batter or dough to rise, especially by fermentation

firstborn: the first male child of the family

plague: a widespread affliction or calamity, especially one seen as divine retribution



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery Worksheet to the students now. They will be referring to it at certain points throughout this section. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

In this lesson and the next lesson, we will be learning about the festivals God established for the Israelites to celebrate, enjoy, and praise Him with. During these festivals, they remembered all the wonderful things He had blessed them with.

Historical Background

After Joseph became the prime minister of Egypt, his father Jacob brought the whole family down to Egypt to survive the famine. The Israelites lived in Egypt for about 400 years. Many years later, the new Pharaoh knew nothing of Joseph's deeds, but instead feared the Israelites because of their great numbers. So, he enslaved them and forced them to labor under the harsh rule of the Egyptians.

Under the harsh rule of the Egyptians, the Israelites cried out to God, begging Him to free them from slavery. In reply, the Lord sent Moses to bring them out of Egypt. However, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, so God showed His great power to both the Egyptians and Israelites by sending ten plagues. The last plague, which resulted in the freedom of the Israelites, was the worst plague—death of the firstborn.

The First Passover

It was at this time that Passover was established. Before God sent down the tenth plague, He instructed the Israelites to hold Passover for the first time. As long as they followed God's instructions, He would "pass over" their house and spare their lives, which is why the feast was called Passover.

God commanded the Israelites to keep Passover every year in order to remember the time the Lord rescued them from slavery. This meant that every year, the Israelites would take a lamb without blemish and sacrifice it in order to remember God's deliverance, and also to remember that long ago they were slaves. In the New Testament, though, a new type of Passover was established—Holy Communion. Jesus Christ established this sacrament, because there was a new lamb that was sacrificed. That Lamb was Jesus Himself (Jn 1:29). Let's examine the similarities between Passover in the Old Testament and Holy Communion in the New Testament.

Let's read Exodus 12:5-8, 24-27, 43-48. What we just read were very specific instructions on how the Israelites

were to hold Passover. Some of these seem very strange, but they were actually all characteristics of Jesus Christ, the new Lamb who came down to earth and was sacrificed for our sakes. Let's go through the instructions and compare them to Jesus' life on earth.

Instructions and Spiritual Significance

1. They must prepare a Passover lamb that is without blemish. (Ex 12:5)

One of the first instructions for Passover was that they were to prepare a lamb "without blemish." This meant that the lamb had to be perfect. The lamb could not be crippled, spotted, or with any sort of injury. Jesus was able to become the new sacrificial lamb because He was sinless, and, therefore, perfect. Only a sacrifice without blemish could save the Israelites from death during the tenth plague, and only a sinless sacrifice could save us from our sins today.

There is an additional meaning to this requirement, though! Although we don't offer animal sacrifices to God, we do often sacrifice things, such as our time or our effort, to God. Offering a sacrifice without blemish means that, when we give something to the Lord, we must offer the best that we have in order to please Him, and that we must also offer with a willing heart. In fact, it is very reasonable that we must offer our best, because God has also given His best to us: His very own son, Jesus Christ.

[Ask students to refer to Part 1 of the Bible Discovery worksheet.]

2. The lamb must be roasted, and none of its bones shall be broken. (Ex 12:8, 46)

Once they picked out a lamb without blemish, the Israelites then received very specific instructions regarding how to cook it. God told them that they must roast the lamb in a fire. What possible significance could this have? Let's turn to 1 Peter 4:12-13. Peter tells us that the sufferings Jesus went through were fiery trials. Sound familiar? There's one more thing, though. God also told the Israelites that none of the lamb's bones could be broken. Next, let's read John 19:36.

Did you know that the Romans normally broke the legs of those they crucified? This was in order to make sure that they were dead. However, Jesus escaped this fate, and none of His bones were broken, just like the Passover

lamb. The preparation of the Passover lamb in the Old Testament was truly a shadow of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, the New Testament Lamb.

[Ask students to refer to Part 2 of the Bible Discovery worksheet.]

3. Passover was kept every year to remember God's salvation. (Ex 12:24-27)

Why do you think the Israelites had to hold Passover every year? [Allow students to suggest reasons.] As humans, we are very forgetful. Can you clearly remember what happened at this time last year? It's for this reason that God commanded the Israelites to hold Passover every year. He wanted them to remember that they were once slaves in Egypt, and that once, God saved them and protected them from the people who enslaved them. Passover served as a reminder that they must be thankful to God every day for their new lives.

We also need to be thankful for the grace that God has given us; He gave us His only Son in order to save us from being enslaved under sin. However, just like the Israelites, we tend to be forgetful, so we hold Holy Communion in order to remind ourselves of Jesus' sacrifice. We should never forget to stop and appreciate the wonderful grace that God has given us.

4. Only those who had been circumcised could partake of the Passover lamb. (Ex 12:48)

Circumcision was first established during Abraham's time, and, from that point on, all of his children continued in this tradition, in order to mark them as God's people. This meant that only God's people were permitted to partake in Passover. If any strangers were present, they had to be circumcised if they wanted to join the Israelites.

When God sent down the tenth plague and established Passover, not only did He save the Israelites, He also opened a way for Gentiles to be saved in the future, today. Jesus shed His blood and gave up His life for us so that we could also become His chosen people, even though we're

not Abraham's descendants. This means that once we're baptized, we can participate in Holy Communion and be a part of God's people.

[Ask students to refer to Part 3 of the Bible Discovery worksheet.]

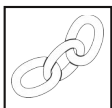
The Feast of Unleavened Bread

When the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai, God gave them what we call the Mosaic Laws. Among them were three annual feasts that the Israelites were to hold every year. One of these was called the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

After the day of the Passover feast, the Israelites were to spend seven days avoiding eating anything made with leaven. On the first day, they were to remove leaven from their houses, and they were not to eat leaven from the first day to the seventh day. Leaven is normally called "yeast" today. Yeast is something that is normally used in making bread dough. Once you mix it in, you knead the dough, and the leaven spreads throughout the whole piece, allowing it to rise when it is baked. Do you know what this represents? Let's read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8. Paul writes here that we should avoid the leaven of malice and wickedness, and instead remove any leaven from our hearts and be like unleavened bread, full of sincerity and truth.

In the same way leaven spreads throughout an entire piece of dough, only a tiny bit of leaven in our hearts can spread very easily. God told the Israelites that they were to remove any leaven from their houses during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Paul writes that we must remove any leaven from our hearts. If our hearts represent the homes of the Israelites, this means that no matter where we are—at home, at church, at school, or at our friend's house—we must always keep ourselves like unleavened bread and remain sincere and truthful. So, although we don't hold the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the same way the Israelites did, we need to remember the purpose of the feast, and do our best to abide by it in our daily lives.

[Ask students to refer to Part 4 of the Bible Discovery worksheet.]



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Holy Communion

Whenever we partake of Holy Communion, we must be reminded of the Passover Lamb, which is our Lord Jesus, who suffered a great deal for our sins. The precious blood that He shed on the cross washed our sins away. And only those whose sins have been washed away can have their life preserved on the great judgment day. Similarly, when God set out to kill all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, He only "passed over" the houses with the blood of the lamb on their door. In other words, the blood of the lamb saved the lives of the firstborn on Passover, much like the blood of the Lord Jesus (the Lamb of God) saved our lives.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **The names of the feasts we learned about today are:** Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
2. **Why is it called "Passover"?** God would "pass over" the houses of the Israelites who partook of the lamb, sparing their firstborn during the tenth plague in Egypt.
3. **Who became the new Passover Lamb in the New Testament? What is the "Passover" that we hold today?** Jesus Christ became the new Passover Lamb. Holy Communion is our new Passover.
4. **What are the four instructions God gave for the Passover feast? How are these fulfilled in the New Testament?**
 - The lamb must be without blemish.
 - It must be roasted, and none of its bones must be broken.
 - Passover must be held every year.
 - Only the circumcised—God's chosen people—may partake of the lamb.

Jesus was sinless and went through a trial of fire. None of His bones were broken, and His blood allowed us to become God's chosen people. Only when we are baptized can we participate in Holy Communion.
5. **For how many days was the Feast of Unleavened Bread to be held?** Seven days.
6. **What is leaven, and what does it represent? Explain.** It is something that makes bread rise. It represents malice and wickedness, because even if you have only a tiny bit in the dough, it spreads throughout the entire piece of dough.
7. **The Israelites had to clean their entire houses of leaven during this feast. What does this represent for us today?** We must clean our hearts of any tiny bit of malice or wickedness, and instead dwell in sincerity and truth.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. A Gift Without Blemish

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 and read the story to or with the students. Then, go over the discussion questions with the students as a class. Suggested answers have been provided.]

Discussion Questions

1. How did the UK brothers move brother James? *They took good care of him during his stay.*
2. Why did brother James decide to make an offering to God? *Because he felt love from the church.*
3. What is the difference between buying the coat first and then offering the rest, and offering first and then buying the coat? *When God looks at a person's offering, the most important is not the amount but the person's heart. What God treasures most is our willingness to offer to and put Him first in our lives. If brother James were to offer the leftover amount, even though James still took the effort to offer, the heart behind the offering would have been less appealing to God. So, brother James did the right thing in offering first.*

God gave us the best that He had: He gave us His one and only Son Lord Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. So, when we think of giving something to God, we cannot but give only the best that we have in return, the same way the Passover lamb had to be without blemish.

2. Keep Ourselves Free of Leaven

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2 and ask the students to read the scenarios, and then answer the questions in the right column. After the students have finished the worksheet, ask them to share their answers with the class. Suggested answers have been provided.]

1. Instead of lying, what should you say?

I am sorry. I broke your cup. I know that you like it a lot, and I am very sorry that I broke it. I will save up my allowance money and buy you a new one when I can.

How does it relate to what we have learned today about the Passover feast?

Remember how God commanded the Israelites to remove any leaven from their homes and their food for seven full days? This was a reminder that we must remove all wickedness from our lives, including lies. Knowing how God feels about lying, we should do our best to get rid of all lies from our daily life in order to please Him.

2. After learning about Passover, how can you bring yourself to forgive your brother?

The Passover reminds us of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God; Lord Jesus suffered and died for us because He loves us. Now He requests that we love others as He has loved us, and forgive others as He has forgiven our sins. If we realize how much the Lord Jesus has forgiven us, then it is very simple to forgive others for their mistakes.

3. What should you do? What should you pray for during Holy Communion?

We should try to settle our arguments before partaking of Holy Communion, or else our hearts will be unsettled when we should be focusing on Jesus and His sacrifice for us. During the sacrament, if we are still angry with others, we should pray for strength from God to help us remain peaceful with our family and friends, and to prevent our hearts from being clouded by the hate or malice that results from such arguments.

**Activity****Offering Our Best to God**

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To remind students that we must always offer our best to God.

Our dear Lord Jesus loved us very much because He suffered so much during His life on earth, and then made the ultimate sacrifice by giving up His very life for our sakes. Today, if we truly love the Lord Jesus, we would be willing to offer our best to Him as well.

Materials

- A piece of blank paper for each student, white or light-colored
- Colored pencils or markers

Instructions

1. Ask the student to draw their most valued possession.
2. When they are finished, have each student explain what they drew to the class.
3. When all the students are done sharing, ask them, "Would you be willing to offer this to the Lord if He asked for it?"
4. Explain to the students that, in order to show that we love Jesus, we need to give Him something in return for His love. So what does God want from us? What can we offer to God?

Answers may vary. For example, we can offer our time and our dedication to serve and worship Him. To do this, we should take away some of our precious computer playing time and use it to study the Bible and to spiritually cultivate our selves to draw closer to Him.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Our Spiritual Convocation is similar to the feasts in the Old Testament in the following ways:

- It is a spiritual feast that we hold regularly every year.
- The members are strengthened through the renewal of the Holy Spirit.
- It is a time for us to proclaim the word of God to our neighbors and also our children.
- We partake of Holy Communion in remembrance of the death of Lord Jesus.
- We have a special thanksgiving offering at the end of the service that reflects our hearts of thanksgiving.

2. B
3. A
4. C
5. C
6. B
7. A

Passover

Encourage the students to discuss the answers and offer their own suggestions. The answers provided are merely guidelines if they get stuck. Bible references may be turned to at your own discretion, depending on time allotment.

Part 1

1. Since the Passover lamb had to be without blemish, that meant that Jesus Christ, the New Testament Passover Lamb, also had to be without blemish. In what ways was the Lord Jesus without blemish?

Lord Jesus was born a human just like you and I, but the one thing that was very special about Him was that He was blameless in all His ways and without sin. [When Lord Jesus was tried in the court, Pilate the governor could not find any basis for a charge against Him (Lk 23:4). In fact, after getting to know Jesus, Pilate said that Jesus was a righteous Man and that he was unwilling to condemn Him (Mt 27:24). Also, in the Book of Hebrews, the author said that Jesus was in all points tempted as we are, yet remained without sin (Heb 4:15).]

2. We have learned that in order to please God, we must offer the best that we have. What does this mean? What are some of the things that you can offer to God today?

We can offer tithe from our allowance money to the Lord. Offering the best also means putting God first. Rather than spending the allowance first and offering only the leftovers, we should offer to God first before we use the money. That way, we are offering the best.

Part 2

1. Jesus Christ suffered a great deal for us while He was in the world, experiencing a "fiery trial." Can you provide a few examples of the sufferings He endured?

- Lord Jesus was despised by the people of His hometown (Lk 4:14-30).
- Lord Jesus lived a very tough life. He once said, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (Lk 9:58)
- Lord Jesus was whipped, mocked, and nailed to the cross.

2. Peter tells us that we need to share in the suffering of Christ in order to share in His glory to come. In what ways do we share in His suffering?

- When we refuse to do evil like worldly people, they often ridicule us (1 Pet 4:4).
- When we set our minds to defeat our sinful nature such as greed, pride, or laziness, we often struggle with ourselves.

Part 3

1. The Jewish people continue to hold Passover every year, even today, to remember God's grace when He delivered them and brought them out of Egypt. Instead of Passover, we keep the Holy Communion on a regular basis. Why?

We keep Holy Communion regularly in order to remember the death of our Lord Jesus and the salvation that He offered through His suffering. Every time during Holy Communion, the pastor reminds us of the sacrifice that Jesus made in order to deliver us from the slavery of sin.

2. God commanded that only the circumcised were permitted to eat the Passover lamb. What are the restrictions we have for Holy Communion today, and why?

Only those who have been baptized into True Jesus Church may partake in Holy Communion, because without baptism, we are not one of God's chosen people and are still under the slavery of sin.

Part 4

1. Which characteristics do leaven and wickedness share?

Leaven spreads quickly and affects the whole lump, much like how wickedness also spreads quickly in a person's heart, even if there is only a tiny bit.

2. Not only were the Israelites to avoid eating anything with leaven, but they were also commanded to clean their houses of any leaven during the feast. What does this represent in regards to how we should live our lives?

This represents living a life of sincerity and truth in our hearts. This means abiding by God's commands not just in church, but also outside of church, such as at home, at school, or at our friend's house.

PASSOVER**Part 1**

1. Since the Passover lamb had to be without blemish, that meant that Jesus Christ, the New Testament Passover Lamb, also had to be without blemish. In what ways was the Lord Jesus without blemish?

2. We have learned that in order to please God, we must offer the best that we have. What does this mean? What are some of the things that you can offer to God today?

Part 2

1. Jesus Christ suffered a great deal for us while He was in the world, experiencing a "fiery trial." Can you provide a few examples of the sufferings He endured?

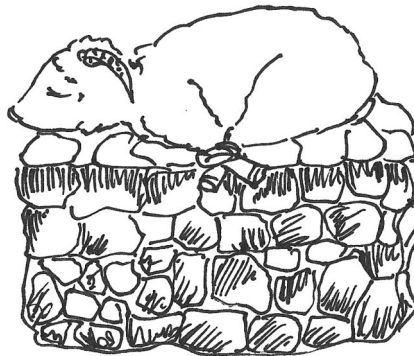
2. Peter tells us that we need to share in the suffering of Christ in order to share in His glory to come. In what ways do we share in His suffering?



Part 3

1. The Jewish people continue to hold Passover every year, even today, to remember God's grace when He delivered them and brought them out of Egypt. Instead of Passover, we keep the Holy Communion on a regular basis. Why?

2. God commanded that only the circumcised were permitted to eat the Passover lamb. What are the restrictions we have for Holy Communion today, and why?

**Part 4**

1. Which characteristics do leaven and wickedness share?

2. Not only were the Israelites to avoid eating anything with leaven, but they were also commanded to clean their houses of any leaven during the feast. What does this represent in regards to how we should live our lives?

A Gift Without Blemish

Brother James got the opportunity to visit the church in UK for the first time. He was very excited to meet so many new brothers and sisters. When he arrived, the UK church members were very kind to him, bringing him around to sightsee and allowing him to live in the church for the duration of his stay.

James had always wanted a long wool coat, and he had heard from his friends that the UK sold coats that were very high quality, so, when he went, he prepared some money especially to buy such a coat. But after being so well received by the UK church, he was so moved that he wanted to offer some of the money that he had brought with him. At first, he was afraid that after offering, he would not have enough money to purchase the coat that he wanted, so he thought to himself, "Why don't I buy the coat first and offer the remaining money?" However, James thought about the teachings he had learned in RE class and about how the correct way to make an offering was always to put God first. So, he offered half of the money that he had brought.

Later, James went out to look for the coat that he wanted, but with only half of the money he had prepared. However, he believed that God would find a coat that was suitable for him, even though he didn't have much money left. Soon enough, he found a coat that he liked very much, but when he saw the price tag, it was a little bit over the amount of money that he had. However, sure that this was the coat for him, James examined it carefully, and found a button that was a little bit loose. When he brought it to the cashier, they agreed to give him a discount, since it was not in perfect condition! In the end, had James offered to the church after buying the coat, he would have bought the coat at a higher price.

From this experience, James learned that as long as he put God first, God would reward him for his efforts and take care of him.

Discussion Questions



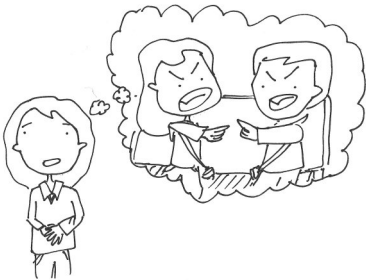
1. How did the UK brothers move brother James?
2. Why did brother James decide to make an offering to God?
3. What is the difference between buying the coat first and then offering the rest, and offering first and then buying the coat?



God gave us the best that He had: He gave us His one and only Son Lord Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. So, when we think of giving something to God, we cannot but give only the best that we have in return, the same way the Passover lamb had to be without blemish.

Keep Ourselves Free of Leaven

Read each scenario in the left column and answer the questions in the right column.

Scenario	How should you act?
<p>You take a cup down from the cabinet so that you can drink some chocolate milk, but because you aren't paying attention, you accidentally knock your sister's favorite cup over and break it. You quickly clean up the mess so that no one gets hurt. When your sister gets home, though, you hear her calling you and asking if you have seen her cup. You feel a little scared, because you know your sister has a bit of a temper, and she really values the cup.</p> 	<p>Instead of lying, what should you say?</p> <p>How does it relate to what we have learned today about the Passover feast?</p>
<p>After a long and tiring day at school, you return home happily, thinking that you can finally drink some refreshing tea from your favorite cup. But you find it broken on the kitchen table, and when you ask your brother, he meekly admits to breaking it accidentally. He apologizes profusely, even offering to use some of his own small allowance to pay for a new one. However, you know that the cup is irreplaceable and cannot be bought anywhere.</p> 	<p>After learning about Passover, how can you bring yourself to forgive your brother?</p>
<p>On the way to Spiritual Convocation, you have a huge fight with your little brother in the car. Before Holy Communion, your teacher reminds you that you must examine yourself before partaking of the bread and cup. Immediately, you think of the argument that you are having with your brother.</p> 	<p>What should you do? What should you pray for during Holy Communion?</p>

E2 Year 1 Book 4 Lesson 5—Feasts (Part 1)

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

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

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

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (1 Corinthians 11:25)

Short Answer

1. In what ways is our Spiritual Convocation similar to the feasts the Israelites had?

Multiple Choice

2. _____ : How often shall the Israelites keep Passover?
 - a. Once a month
 - b. Once a year
 - c. Once in a lifetime
3. _____ : What is the correct way to cook the Passover lamb?
 - a. Roast in fire
 - b. Boil in water
 - c. Microwave
4. _____ : Who are not allowed to eat of the Passover lamb?
 - a. Those who are crippled
 - b. Those who are blind
 - c. Those who are not circumcised
5. _____ : What is the reason that we keep Holy Communion today?
 - a. To appreciate Lord Jesus' resurrection
 - b. To celebrate the Lord's birth
 - c. To remember the Lord's death
6. _____ : What does leaven represent in our life today?
 - a. Bread
 - b. Sin
 - c. Dough
7. _____ : Which portion of our allowance should we use to offer as tithe to the Lord?
 - a. The first 10 percent
 - b. The middle 10 percent
 - c. The last 10 percent