

LESSON 31

The Last Plaque & the First Passover

EXODUS 11–13



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SAVED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 31)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 31

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

The Passover

SUPPLIES: two pieces of red cloth (towels or scarves will do fine); black cloth or cape

Not Enough Protection

SUPPLIES: bicycle helmet; safety glasses/goggles; hockey mask

The Just Judge

SUPPLIES: felt or flannel board; ten silhouettes cut out of black felt; five 1-inch teardrop shapes cut from red felt

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will hear the story of how God sent the plague of death upon the firstborn of Egypt.

As a review of the plagues the children learned last week, see how many of the motions and sounds for the plagues they can remember.

- Blood: children say “drip, drop” over and over
- Frogs: children say “rib-it” over and over and hop around
- Gnats: children say “buzz” and wave their hands over their heads
- Flies: children say “buzz” much louder and flap their hands like wings
- Livestock: children get on all fours and “moo” like cows but have them sound very ill and some can fall over dead
- Boils: children should say “boils, ooh boils” over and over while pretending to scratch them everywhere
- Hail: children should pat the ground like a drum with both hands
- Locusts: children should all make loud chewing sounds and hop around the room
- Darkness: children should cover their eyes with their hands.

Explain to the children that God is going to send one last plague. Tell them to listen closely to the Bible story because with this last plague God gave Israel a sign pointing to Jesus and his death on the cross.

Let’s see what might be strong enough to protect the Israelites in our story today.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 31, “The Last Plague and the First Passover,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What was the last plague God brought upon Egypt?
(the plague of death of the firstborn when every firstborn son would be killed by the Lord)
- What did God ask the Israelites to do to protect their families?
(They were to kill a lamb and wipe its blood on their door frames so that the Lord would see it and pass over their home.)
- What special day did the Lord tell the Israelites they should continue to celebrate every year?
(Passover)
- Why did God call that special day Passover?
(because it is the day the Lord “passed over” the homes marked with blood)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- When the Israelites left Egypt what did they ask the Egyptians for?
(God directed them to ask for articles of silver and gold [Exodus 11:2].)
- Why did the Egyptians give the silver and gold when the Israelites asked for it?
(God moved on the Egyptians’ hearts to give their treasures of silver and gold away when God’s people asked for them as they left [Exodus 12:36].)
- What else did the people take?
(The Israelites took all their livestock as well as their bread dough, which did not have yeast in it yet.)
- Can you give an example of unleavened bread?
(tortillas, matzo)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 1 Corinthians 5:7–8

In this passage, as in the Passover, leaven represents sin. This is another way in which the story of Passover speaks to us of holiness and salvation. The Hebrews ate bread to live, so unleavened bread represented life free of sin.

But the most important aspect of the Passover was the blood on the door frame. In the entire Old Testament, this is the clearest foreshadowing (picture) of the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross. God promised the Hebrews that if the blood of a lamb was painted on the door frame, he would pass over that home and the firstborn son would not be killed. Similarly, Jesus is the Lamb who was slain for us. It is his blood that marks us as chosen by God and protected from God's holy wrath against sin.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 31—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What happened to the children in the homes that did not have blood on the door frames?
(The firstborn sons were killed by God.)
- What happened to the children in the homes that did have blood on the door frames?
(The children were not killed. They were saved.)

- Why did God tell the Israelites to use the blood of a lamb as the way they could be saved from death?

(God was foreshadowing the cross when the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, would cover those who would be saved from eternal death. God is teaching the Israelites that without blood, there can be no forgiveness and no pardon.)

The Passover

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ 2 pieces of red cloth (towels or scarves will do fine)
- ✓ black cloth or cape

Divide the class into three groups. Pick two children from each group to be the doorway with the rest of the group inside the “house.” Have these two children hold up their hands to form a doorway (like in “London Bridge”).

Over two of the doorways drape the red cloth. Have a teacher draped with a black cloak or cloth move through the class. Have the teacher pass around the perimeter of each “house” looking for the doorway and immediately leave when she sees the red draped on the door. Have one of the children in the third “house” (the one without a red cloth) pretend to die when the teacher visits that home.

Ask the following questions:

- Who can describe what happened in the drama?
- How is this short drama like the Passover in Egypt?
(The teacher in black passed the doorways with red on them.)
- Why did God have the Israelites use blood?
(The blood is a picture of Jesus who would shed his blood so that we may be forgiven of our sins against God.)

Not Enough Protection

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ bicycle helmet
- ✓ safety glasses/goggles
- ✓ hockey mask

Show the children the bicycle helmet and ask them if they know what it is. Ask them why anybody would have one of these. (So a bicycle rider doesn't get hurt if he falls.) Ask how many of them have one.

Repeat the above process with the safety glasses and the hockey mask. Try to get specific with them in how each item protects the user.

Then ask, "If we want to be protected from sin, what should we do?" (They may answer "don't sin" or "obey my parents.") If they do, then ask how many people sin anyway. (Encourage even the teachers and helpers to raise their hands for the children to see.) Tell them that while obeying your parents is a very good thing, it still is not enough to protect us from sin. We need something much stronger—stronger even than a bicycle helmet, safety glasses, or hockey mask. We need faith in Jesus who died on the cross for our sins so we can escape God's punishment.

The Just Judge

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ten silhouettes cut out of black felt
- ✓ five 1-inch teardrop shapes cut out of red felt

Use the flannel board for this activity. Place all the figures on the flannel board and tell the children that they are all sinners who have sinned against God.

Five of them are Egyptian and five of them are Israelites. Ask the children if they can tell which ones are which. Of course they will not be able to tell. Ask the children the following questions:

- Does anyone know what the punishment for being a sinner is?

(The punishment for sin, disobeying God, is death.)

Read God's warning to Adam and Eve in Genesis 2:17: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- If all the people on the flannel board are sinners, do they all deserve to die?

(Yes, every sinner deserves the punishment of death.)

In your own words, repeat the instructions God gave Moses in Exodus 12:12–13 regarding the blood on the door frame. Take the red teardrops and place them over five of the figures.

Ask the following questions:

- Which of the figures are the Israelites?
(The five with the blood are the Israelites.)

- Are these five Israelites with the blood sinners?
(yes)

- Do they deserve death just like the Egyptians?
(yes)

- Why?
(They deserve death because they are sinners and death is the just punishment for sin.)

- Why did God not kill them?
(The blood was a sign for the Israelites. When God saw the blood he passed over their houses. The people who put the blood on the door were trusting in the salvation God provided, just like we trust in Jesus.)

- Who will pay the penalty for the sin of those people who are covered with the blood?
(Jesus will pay the penalty for those who are covered by the blood.)

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 31 - THE LAST PLAGUE AND THE FIRST PASSOVER

