

LESSON 31

# The Last Plague & the First Passover

EXODUS 11–12



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

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

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** . . . . . **5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Read Exodus 12:1–14 from the Scriptures or read story 31, “The Last Plague and the First Passover,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
A Little Lamb and Unleavened Bread  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ prior to class roast a small portion of lamb
  - ✓ either bake or purchase some unleavened bread (such as tortillas, pitas, matzos, Swedish crisp bread, or lavash)
  - ✓ plates
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** . . . . . **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . . **15 MIN**  
The Firstborn  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ red construction paper cut into quarters
  - ✓ scissors
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** . . . . . **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Coloring Activity  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ coloring page 31—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** . . . . . **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** . . . . . **15 MIN**  
Plagues, Plagues, Plagues

**TOTAL 85 MIN**

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

**Pharaoh is warned but will not obey**—Moses warns Pharaoh of the final plague. He even says that Pharaoh’s own son will die. Pharaoh’s response is not recorded, but we are told that even then he will not allow the Israelites to go.

Isn’t it amazing that even after all the wonders and plagues, Pharaoh still does not change his mind? This shows the stubborn power of sin apart from the grace of God.

**Israel is warned and obeys**—In this chilling story, Moses instructs the Israelites to kill a lamb and mark the door frame of their homes with its blood. Through Moses, God tells Israel that when he sees the blood on the door frame, he will pass over their homes. This is where the name “Passover” comes from.

Just as God had warned, that night he kills every firstborn in every home that does not have the door frame marked. Not one house in all Egypt escapes without someone in it dying. Even the firstborn cattle die. But, having trusted and obeyed God, the Israelites and their households are safe.

**Pharaoh sends the Israelites away with many gifts**—The last plague comes upon the Egyptians just after midnight. Before the night is even over, Pharaoh summons Moses and tells him to take the Hebrews out of Egypt immediately. Pharaoh has seen that God is with Moses, so he asks Moses for a blessing!

Before long, Pharaoh will regret his decision and will chase after Israel. But the Israelites have done as God instructed them through Moses. They have asked the Egyptians for gifts. So when they leave Egypt they take with them large amounts of silver, gold, jewelry, and clothing.

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

### THE LESSON

#### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

#### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Exodus 12:1–14 from the Scriptures or read story 31, "The Last Plague and the First Passover," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

#### OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

##### A Little Lamb and Unleavened Bread

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ prior to class roast a small portion of lamb
- ✓ either bake or purchase some unleavened bread (such as tortillas, pitas, matzos, Swedish crisp bread, or lavash)
- ✓ plates

Pass out small portions on plates for them to taste as you read through the story.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- What was so magical about the blood of a lamb that it was able to hide them from judgment?

*(The blood of the lamb was not magical and it didn't hide the firstborn of Israel from God. The blood of the lamb reminded God of the coming sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. God looked ahead to the forgiveness that would come through his Son and based upon this God was able to pass over and not judge the firstborn of Israel.)*

- Why did God tell the Israelites to eat quickly, with belt fastened, sandals on feet, and staff in hand?

*(God was surely going to deliver them from Egypt and they needed to be ready to go. Just like when your mom and dad call out and say just before a trip, "Okay everyone, get your shoes and your jackets on, we are leaving soon." In the same way, Israel was able to demonstrate their faith in God by putting on their sandals and eating quickly because their deliverance was soon to come. Even today Matthew 24:44 tells us to be ready for the return of Christ because he will come when we least expect it.)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 15 MIN**

**The Firstborn**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ red construction paper cut into quarters
- ✓ scissors

Pass a red rectangle of construction paper and a pair of scissors to each child. Have each child cut a cross out of their rectangle. (These need not be exact or all the same.) After all the children have finished, ask them to place their red crosses under their chair and sit back down. Read the account of the final plague from Exodus 11:4–6.

## ■ LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON 31

Explain what it means to be the firstborn and ask every firstborn child present in the room to stand. Explain to them that if they had been in Egypt on that Passover evening, they would have been in danger of death. Only one thing would have saved them.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **What is the one thing that would save the firstborn from death?**  
*(God instructed Israel to place the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their homes and then the last plague of death would pass by. Have the children who are standing pick up their red crosses and hold them while they stand.)*
  
- **What about the cattle, what would happen to the cattle that evening?**  
*(The firstborn of the cattle would also die.)*
  
- **While the firstborn are still standing, ask the class what the Passover foreshadows—what it points toward?**  
*(The Passover points to the day when Jesus would die for the sins of man. His blood would be sufficient to cover over our sins.)*

Ask any children not standing to stand if they are sinners and in need of God to cover their sin. Coach them so they understand that everyone is a sinner. Have them hold up their crosses, and then pray for the class that God would help them to trust in Christ and his sacrifice on the cross.

### **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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.

### **ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 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.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 15 MIN**

**Plagues, Plagues, Plagues**

Recruit two students to play the parts of Pharaoh and Moses. Of the remaining students, half will play the part of Egyptians and the other half will act out the plagues. Some plagues, like the plague of frogs, are easy to act out—the children can hop around. But others are more difficult. For water turned to blood, for example, have the children simply say, “Water to blood. Water to blood.”

After each plague, have the Egyptians call out to Pharaoh for help. Pharaoh can then ask Moses to stop the plagues. Moses can say “God, stop the plague.” At that point, have the plague stop. Then have Moses ask Pharaoh to let the people go, to which he should always reply, until the last plague, “No.”

Refer to the following list of plagues and ask the children to help you come up with choreography for each of them:

1. Water turns to blood
2. Frogs

3. Gnats
4. Flies
5. Death of cattle
6. Boils
7. Thunder and hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death of the firstborn



LESSON 31 - THE LAST PLAGUE AND THE FIRST PASSOVER

