

LESSON 31

# The Last Plaque & 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**  
For All Generations  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ cutout of a lamb
  - ✓ large plastic bag filled with cracker pieces
  - ✓ belt to be tied around a child’s waist
  - ✓ a pair of sandals
  - ✓ a large cardboard cross
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** . . . . . **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
The Blood on the Lintel  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ roll of brown craft paper
  - ✓ tape
  - ✓ red paint
  - ✓ bowl
  - ✓ bunch of dried grass to use as a brush of hyssop (dried flowers from a craft store will work)
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** . . . . . **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** . . . . . **20 MIN**  
Passover Bracelet  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ one twelve-inch length of brown string for each student
  - ✓ beads for stringing—two black, two red, two gold, and two white for each student
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** . . . . . **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
A Little Yeast  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ bread dough
  - ✓ glass bowl
  - ✓ damp cloth
  - ✓ warm location in classroom

**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.

## A LITTLE BIT MORE

*Firstborn*

The term firstborn means the one who is born first. Being the firstborn son brought with it a special blessing and inheritance (Deuteronomy 21:15–17). The firstborn son is said to be a sign of the father’s strength and this son should inherit a double portion of the father’s estate.

When God judged the firstborn of Egypt, he was bringing a significant judgment to every household of Egypt. Jesus is called the “firstborn of all creation” (Colossians 1:15); “firstborn from the dead” (Colossians 1:18); and God’s firstborn (Hebrews 1:6).

By protecting the firstborn of Israel and sparing them judgment, God made way for his firstborn Son to be judged. Israel did not escape judgment; their judgment was simply postponed.

Jesus would take God’s judgment of the firstborn for Israel and for all people who trust in his atoning sacrifice for their sins.

### 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**

**For All Generations**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ cutout of a lamb
- ✓ large plastic bag filled with cracker pieces
- ✓ belt to be tied around a child's waist
- ✓ a pair of sandals
- ✓ a large cardboard cross

Place the children in a large circle. Pair them off with a partner. Tell them that each group of two people represents a generation in Israel. Read Exodus 12:14–17, and explain that God instructed Israel to remember the Passover feast and to pass it on to their children, who were also to remember and keep the Passover.

As you tell the Passover story, give one pair of children the belt, sandals, the lamb cutout, and crackers. One child should put on the sandals while the other puts on the belt. They should hold the lamb while they each eat a piece of cracker. Once they have done this, they should pass on the bag of crackers, lamb, belt, and sandals to the team on their right. The process continues as you tell the story of the Passover.

After all the props have traveled around the circle twice, hold up the cross in the middle of the circle and ask the children if they recognize what you are holding. They will say it's a cross and that it represents Jesus.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **What do the lamb and its blood on the doorpost represent?**  
*(The Passover lamb represents Jesus, and its blood represents Jesus' blood that was shed for us on the cross.)*
- **Why do you think God had Israel practice the Passover every year down through the generations? What do you think God was preparing them for?**  
*(God had the Israelites celebrate the Passover every year so they would one day recognize that Jesus is the Savior, the Lamb of God.)*

- Though some people still enjoy celebrating the Passover today, why is it no longer necessary?

*(Jesus, the Passover lamb, came to die once and for all to take away our sin. The Passover was meant to point to Jesus. Now that we have Jesus we celebrate his life and our salvation from sin and death through his death and resurrection. The Passover in Exodus was a shadow of the real Passover when Jesus' blood was shed for us. God's judgment passes over those of us who have been changed by the Spirit of God and who trust in the finished work of Christ.)*

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

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

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**The Blood on the Lintel**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ roll of brown craft paper
- ✓ tape
- ✓ red paint
- ✓ bowl
- ✓ bunch of dried grass to use as a brush of hyssop (dried flowers from a craft store will work)

Prior to class tape the brown paper around your classroom door frame. Put the red paint in the bowl. Tell the story of the last plague. When you get to the part where the Israelites put the blood on the doorposts and lintel of their homes, pull out the bunch of dried grass and the red paint. Pretend to be an Israelite and paint the door frame of your class. When you dramatize a lesson like this the children will remember it more clearly. If you desire, involve a few of the children painting the lower sections of the doorposts.

Use this drama as an opportunity to talk to the children about how the blood of the lamb painted on the door frame points forward to the blood of Jesus shed on the cross for our sins.

**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 . . . . . 20 MIN**

**Passover Bracelet**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ one twelve-inch length of brown string for each student
- ✓ beads for stringing—two black, two red, two gold, and two white for each student

Have the children string their bracelets with the beads in the following order: black, red, gold, white, black, red, white, gold.

Use the making of the bracelet as a way to help the children remember the first Passover. In Exodus 12:23–27 God tells the people that they are to remember and teach the story of the Passover as a lasting ordinance for their descendants. We of course still remember the Passover, but unlike the Jews who celebrate the exodus from Egypt alone, we celebrate the ministry of Christ. The Passover is meant to point forward to Jesus, so now that Jesus has come, we remember him. In fact, at the Passover meal before Jesus’ death, he gave to us a new ceremony with which to remember him—the Lord’s Supper. Now when we read about the first Passover we should always think about the ministry of Jesus to which it pointed.

- Brown string—The cross of Christ, which was the plan of God through all of history.
- Black—The last plague of death.
- Red—The blood of the lamb that marked the doorpost, protecting Israel from God’s judgment.
- Gold—The treasure given the Israelites by the Egyptians as they fled Egypt.
- White—The presence of God leading Israel to the Promised Land.
- Black—The presence of sin in the lives of all people.
- Red—The blood of the Lamb, which takes away our sin.
- White—The presence of God living in all believers who are now white as snow.
- Gold—Our treasure is in heaven together with Jesus.

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

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

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**A Little Yeast**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ bread dough
- ✓ glass bowl
- ✓ damp cloth
- ✓ warm location in classroom

Bring in a batch of bread dough that was allowed to rise once and then punched down just before class. Dough should be in a glass bowl with a damp cloth placed over it. The dough should be placed in a warm location so that it can rise during class.

Show the class the lump of dough when they first arrive. Explain how yeast works. Yeast is a microscopic, single-cell organism that produces alcohol and carbon dioxide as it grows. The carbon dioxide bubbles are caught and trapped in the strands of gluten in the bread mixture, causing it to rise. The longer it is allowed to sit at a warm temperature the more the yeast grows and multiplies. As it grows it gives off more and more carbon dioxide and maltose, which gives bread a good flavor. That is why bread is allowed to rise twice.

Explain to the children that 1 Corinthians 5:6–8 (NIV) compares yeast to sin and refers back to the Passover and eating bread without yeast. The lesson is that if you allow a little sin in your life, it will grow and multiply.

Read through the story of the Passover and at the end of class take another look at the bread, which should have risen over the course of your instruction. Explain that because Jesus was sacrificed for our sin, we should look to get rid of the sin (yeast) in our lives.