

General Church Education



The Passover

Exodus 12:29-42

Lesson 7

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

The Passover

Exodus 12:29-42

For Parents and Teachers

The Passover was named for the fact that death “passed over” the houses of the Hebrews at the time of the tenth plague when the firstborn of Egypt, both people and animals, died. The Hebrews were safe in their homes eating the Passover meal and preparing to leave Egypt. The Passover represents those times when we turn to the Lord and begin to receive the heavenly blessings of good and truth, which are a feast to our soul. The Hebrews had experienced the misery of slavery. They were just beginning to know the Lord again. They had relearned His name, seen His awesome miracles and were following His instructions carefully in their first efforts to obey. Even in our first small efforts, the Lord gives us a taste of heavenly states.

The lamb represents innocent, heavenly affections and its blood represents innocent thoughts. This is the centerpiece of the Passover meal with good reason. When we fully realize that we are totally dependent on the Lord for all that is good, evil cannot harm us. It is as if evil influences see the blood on the doorway and do not enter. The bread is unleavened because there is nothing from the prior state in it. It represents not letting anything evil come in. The bitter herbs are a reminder that trials or temptations always accompany a new reception of truth. This is necessary in order for the new truth to become a firm part of us. The Hebrews were to be ready to travel immediately. This represents putting our true thoughts and good loves to use, not just enjoying them for ourselves.

Ideas for Children

- The Lord always delivers us from evil if we ask Him to.
- Like us, the children of Israel were learning how to follow the Lord’s instructions.
- The Israelites could see that the Lord was always with them in the pillar of cloud and fire. He is always with us even if we don’t see Him.
- The Lord leads us just He did the children of Israel.

From the Writings

That the pillar of cloud during the daytime and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people means the Lord’s presence was unceasing. *Arcana Coelestia* 8110

Through the Lord’s presence those governed by good and therefore guided by truth are given light. Also through the Lord’s presence those who are to be raised into heaven are brought out of damnation, for they are held back from evil and maintained in good by the Lord, and with great force. *Arcana Coelestia* 7989

The Passover

Exodus 12:29-42

Words to Understand

unleavened bread—bread in which there is no leaven, such as yeast or baking powder, to make it rise and have a light fluffy texture

blemish—a mark or spot that spoils something

memorial—any thing meant to help people remember something

generations—all the people in a family that follow one after another, such as grandfather, father, son

ordinance—a command or established practice

lintel—the cross piece over the opening of a doorway

pillar—a long, slender structure, like a column

The Exodus

The word exodus means “going out.” The book of the Word called Exodus is the story of the children of Israel going out of Egypt. In the last lesson you learned about the terrible plagues the Lord sent on the land of Egypt because Pharaoh would not let the children of Israel leave Egypt. You would think that was strange, since the Egyptians feared and hated the Hebrews. Why weren’t they happy to let them go? The truth was, they liked to have slaves to do their hard work for them. The Egyptians thought that by keeping them as prisoners, the children of Israel would not be able to rise up against them. For hundreds of years they were slaves in Egypt. Then Moses was called by the Lord to lead them through the wilderness back to the Promised Land of Canaan where they could make their true home. When the Hebrews were finally about to be set free, they were commanded to celebrate a special meal called the Passover.



The Passover Feast

After nine plagues had happened, the Lord spoke to Moses again. Something so important was about to happen that the Lord told the Hebrews to change their calendar! This month became the first month of their year. They were told to celebrate this great event with a special feast every year at this time. This memorial is kept even today, thousands of years later! It helps Jewish people remember how they were saved from slavery. During the Passover meal in Jewish homes today one of the people present always asks why

they are keeping this tradition. Then one of the older men retells the story and that is how it is kept alive with each new generation. **Read Exodus 12:1-14.**

At this first Passover what kind of animal was the father of each household told to choose? (A male lamb from the sheep or a male kid from the goats.) The animal had to look good and be healthy or be without blemish. If the families were small, two families would take one lamb and prepare it together. On the fourteenth day of the month, all the families of the Hebrews were to take the lambs in the evening and roast them with great care so that none of the bones would be broken.

Did you notice they were to take some of the blood from the lamb and put it on the doorposts and the lintel of the door as a sign that Hebrews lived in that house. They used a bunch of hyssop, the leaves of a small plant, to put the blood around the doorway. Everyone was to gather inside and no one was to go out that night.

The Lord told Moses they were also to prepare unleavened bread. This was because they needed to be ready to go in a hurry and would not have time to let the bread rise and make a fluffy loaf. So they ate flat bread and some sprigs of bitter herbs with the lamb at their Passover meal. They were to eat it in haste, wearing their traveling clothes, with their walking sticks ready, prepared to leave with very short notice. Do you think the Children of Israel would obey the Lord and do what He commanded? We read later in the Word that they “did so.”

Pharaoh Lets the Hebrews Go

The tenth plague. At midnight, while the Hebrews were keeping the Passover feast, all the firstborn of the Egyptian animals and people were killed, even Pharaoh’s oldest son. We can only imagine the great pain of sadness among the Egyptians caused by Pharaoh’s stubbornness. None of the Hebrews were harmed because the blood on their doorposts was a sign that the people in these houses should be kept safe. Death “passed over” the Hebrews’ houses. In the middle of the night Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and told them to leave Egypt that very night. He told them to take with them all their people, all their flocks and herds and everything they had. The Hebrews were ready to go at once because the Lord had told them to prepare. They had already packed everything. They left Egypt rich because the Egyptians had allowed them to take gold, silver and clothing.

The children of Israel were finally free! They were no longer slaves to Pharaoh! It was important that the Hebrews follow all the Lord’s instructions carefully. They had seen His awesome power in the miracles of the plagues on the Egyptians. Now they needed to learn to listen and obey what the Lord said. It was a long journey to Canaan. The children of Israel were a



huge group of people. In Exodus 12:37 we read that 600,000 men plus women and children left Egypt that night. The Lord led the people out of Egypt with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. It reached so high that the whole congregation could always see it and know that the Lord was leading them home.

The Holy Supper

From this time the Hebrews celebrated their deliverance from slavery each year by keeping the Passover feast. You may remember that the Lord, while on earth, also kept the Passover with His disciples. Do you remember the story of the Last Supper? It was here that the Lord gave the a new feast to keep called the Holy Supper. The celebration of the Holy Supper holds great meaning for us today because we are Christians. We worship the Lord God Jesus Christ.



The Holy Supper is different from the Passover of the Jewish people. There is only unleavened bread and wine. The Holy Supper is celebrated during worship services numerous times a year, not just in the first month as the Passover meal is. The Holy Supper is a memorial kept by those who follow the Lord Jesus Christ. We will learn more about at Easter time.

Christians all over the world eat the bread and drink the wine of the Holy Supper in a special worship service. It is meant to help us remember that we also need the Lord to guide us throughout our lives. Each of us makes a spiritual journey during our life. We need to be set free from being like slaves or under the control of evil spirits. Then we can follow our path to our true home which is heaven. We cannot accomplish this by ourselves anymore than the Hebrews could free themselves from slavery in Egypt. We need to trust the Lord and look to Him to guide us every step of the way.

Discussion Ideas

- What important things does your family remember or celebrate?
- What does it feel like to start out on something new?

Activity Overview | The Passover

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. John 15:12-4

Songs

Lamp of Our Feet

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-lamp-of-our-feet/>

Crossing the Red Sea

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-crossing-the-red-sea/>

Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Bake Unleavened Bread
- Activity 2 | Pillar of Fire and Cloud
- Picture to color—The Passover (Exodus 12)

Additional Activity Ideas

- Think about what it means to be free. In what ways do we have freedom in our homes, and in our country. Are there times when freedom must be limited?
- Discuss what you think is wrong with slavery and why the Lord wants people to especially have freedom of religion.
- Talk about a time when you felt the Lord protecting you.

Activity 1 | Bake Unleavened Bread

Materials Needed

1 cup flour (whole wheat pastry flour is best)
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons olive oil
3 tablespoons cold water
mixing bowl
fork for mixing
baking sheet

Directions

1. Mix the flour and salt together in a bowl.
2. Add the olive oil and mix together with a fork until thoroughly mixed.
3. Sprinkle the water on the mix and use the fork to form a ball.
4. Flatten the dough with your hand to about 1/4 inch thick.
5. Place the dough on a flat baking sheet or pie pan.
6. Bake at 375° for about 15 minutes or until it just starts to turn golden brown.



Activity 2 | Pillar of Fire and Cloud

Create a pillar that looks like cloud in daylight and flame at night.

Materials Needed

- 1 sheet red or orange tissue paper
- 1 sheet yellow tissue paper
- 8 cotton balls
- glue or tape
- tall clear drinking glass or jar
- short candle, such as a tea light candle

Directions

1. Put a short candle (such as a tea light) in a tall drinking glass or jar.
2. Cut tissue into flame-shaped angels to represent the choir of angels. (See angel templates on the next page.) Tape or glue the angels to the outside of the glass.
3. Tear cotton balls apart and glue or tape over flame-shaped angels.
4. During the day the project looks like a pillar of cloud. At night, light the candle and darken the room to watch the pillar of fire appear.



