

● Lesson 12

PASSOVER

The last plague God sent to the Egyptians was a terrible one. It finally caused Pharaoh to change his mind and let the Israelites go. The firstborn son of every family as well as the firstborn of all the livestock in Egypt died.

However, in the Israelite camp no one died. How did this happen? The Israelites were obedient and followed God's instructions to protect their families. What were these instructions? Look at Exodus 12:21-28.

1. First, what was slaughtered? Exodus 12:21

What was to be special about this animal? Exodus 12:5 _____

2. Where were they to put the blood from this animal? Exodus 12:22 _____

3. How did this protect the Israelites? Exodus 12:23

Memory Verse

Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

I Peter 1:18-19



4. The Israelites were instructed to observe this **ritual** every year. What was it to be called? Exodus 12:27

Why were they to continue observing this **ceremony**? Exodus 12:26-27 _____

The blood on the doorposts caused the Lord to “pass over” the Israelite households and keep them free from this plague of death. The people did not die, but a lamb had to be sacrificed so the blood could be put on the door frames.

The **Passover** the Israelites observed is a picture for us of our Passover Lamb.

5. Who is our “Passover Lamb”? I Corinthians 5:7

Why did He have to die? John 1:29, I Peter 1:18-19

6. The Israelites' Passover lamb freed them from the plague of death. From what does our Passover Lamb free us? Romans 6:6, 23 _____

On the night before He was crucified, Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples. That night He initiated a new **observance** which Christians still celebrate today. It is also a service of **remembrance**. Read Matthew 26:17-20 and 26-30 to learn about this service.

1. What do we call this service of remembrance? _____

2. What food do we eat and drink at this service? vv.26-28 _____

3. What did Jesus say this food is? _____

4. What special event are we remembering when we partake in this service? I Corinthians 11:24-25, John 19:28-30 _____

5. Why is it important to remember this event? Matthew 26:28, Ephesians 1:7-8 _____

PASSOVER TODAY

People of the Jewish faith, who are descendants of the Israelites, still celebrate Passover today. Their service is called a *seder* (SAY-der). A book called the *Haggadah* (hah-gah-DAH) contains the ceremony and is read from at various times during the service. A *seder* plate is set with a lamb shank bone, a sprig of parsley, a scoop of horseradish, and a scoop of *haroset* (hah-RO-set), a mixture of applesauce, raisins, and almonds or walnuts. Each is **symbolic**. The parsley is dipped in saltwater to symbolize the tears shed by the Israelites while in slavery in Egypt. The lamb bone is a reminder of how the blood sacrifice of the original Passover lamb spared the people from the plague of death. The horseradish (or bitter herbs) is to remember the bitterness and sorrow of the Israelites' lives in Egypt. Also included in the meal is *matzah* (MAHT-sah), which is bread made without yeast, and wine or grape juice. The *haroset* is put on the *matzah* with the bitter herbs to make a sandwich.



Traditionally, a child will ask the question, “Why is this night different from all the rest?” The story of Moses, Pharaoh, and the Israelites’ deliverance from Egypt is recounted. The people give thanks to God for the blessings remembered.

The youngest child who asks the questions at the Passover *seder* asks them in Hebrew, the original language of the Israelites. Following is one of the prayers used in a *seder* service. See if you can read it in Hebrew!

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו
מלך העולם בורא פרי הגפן

Ba-RUKE a-TAH ah-doe-NI el-o-HEY-nu
MEL-eck ha-o-LAM BO-ray pree ha-GAFF-en

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

Fast Fact: Afikomen



- During the Jewish Passover meal, three pieces of *matzah* (unleavened bread) are kept in a cloth container divided into three separate compartments.
- The middle piece of *matzah* is removed from its compartment and broken into two pieces. The smaller piece is returned to its compartment. The larger piece, the *afikomen* (ah-fee-KOH-man), is wrapped in a napkin and hidden in the house by the leader.
- Later, the children search for the *afikomen*. Whoever finds it trades it back to the leader for a prize (candy, money, etc.).
- Jewish Christians believe the *afikomen* represents Jesus the Messiah, who was broken, hidden away (buried), and brought back to life.

THE YOUNGEST CHILD ASKS . . .

The following four questions are asked by the youngest child at the *seder* and are then answered or explained by the *seder* host:

1. On all other nights we eat either leavened bread or unleavened; on this night why do we eat only unleavened bread?

When the Jews ran away from their Egyptian slave masters, they had no time to wait for their bread to rise. They had to take unleavened bread with them.

2. On all other nights, we eat herbs of any kind; on this night, why do we eat only bitter herbs?

The bitter herbs remind us of the bitterness of slavery.

3. On all other nights, we do not dip our herbs even once; on this night, why do we dip them twice?

We dip the herbs in saltwater to remind us of the tears of the Jewish slaves.

4. On all other nights, we eat our meals in any manner; on this night, why do we sit around the table together in a reclining position?

As slaves, the Jews were not allowed to sit comfortably and enjoy dinner. But as free people, today’s Jews can eat and relax.

Catechism Corner

1. What is the Sacrament of the Altar? (Q. 358)

It is the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, given unto us Christians to eat and to drink, as it was instituted by Christ Himself.

2. What are some connections between the Old Testament Passover and Jesus’ death on the cross?
