

OLIVE TREEHOUSE

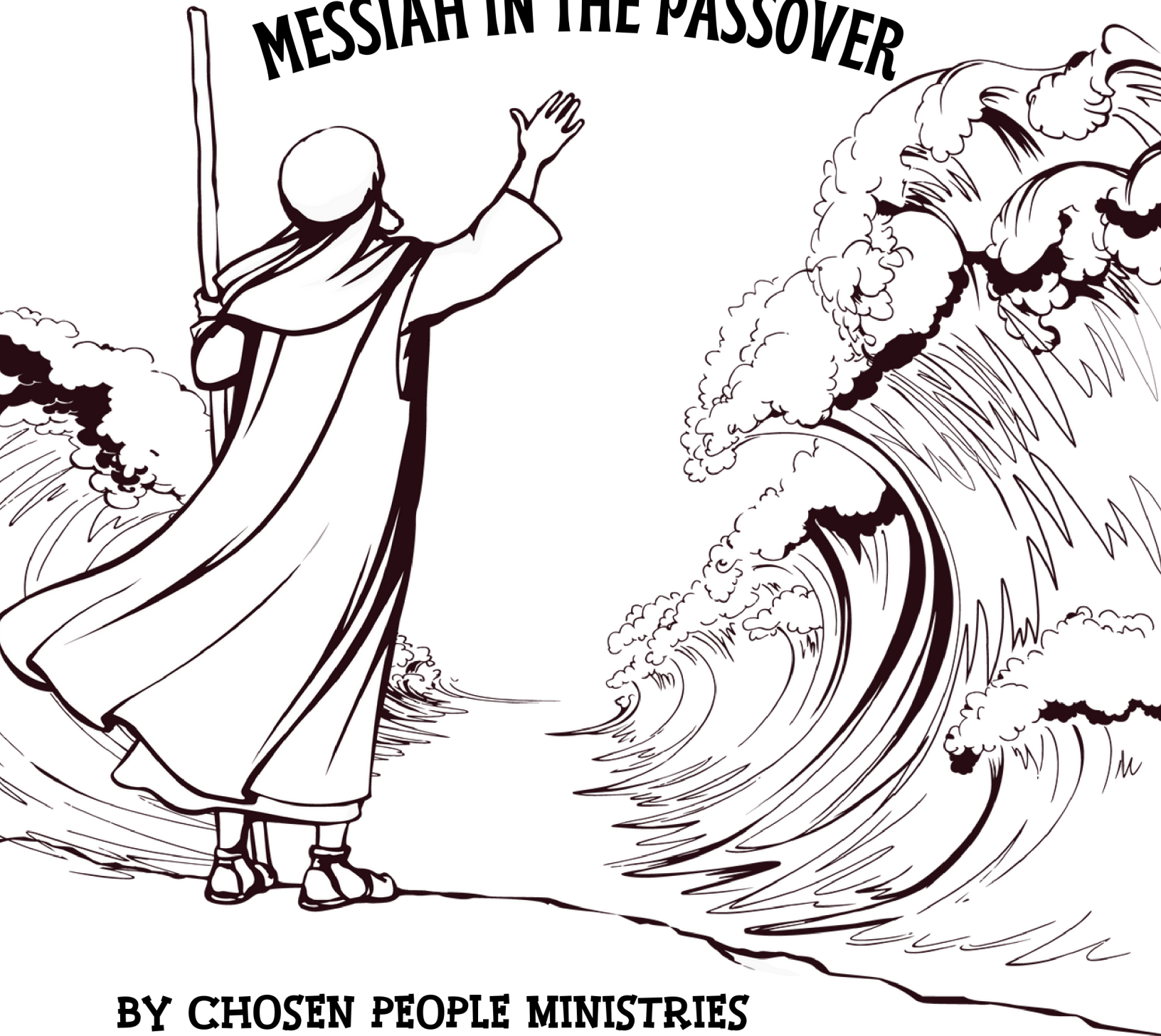
MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER



BY CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

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SHALOM!

For Jewish people, Passover is perhaps the most important festival in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). God instituted Passover, Pesach in Hebrew (pronounced pay'-sakh), when He liberated the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.

In the following Sunday School lessons for children, you will discover why Passover is such an important festival—not only for Jewish people but for believers in Jesus, the Messiah, as well. As you will see, this story of freedom from slavery reflects the life and purpose of the Messiah.

LESSON 1: THE HARDENED HEART OF PHARAOH



God will deliver
His people.

MEMORY VERSE

My help comes from
the Lord, who made
heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:2

THE BIRTH OF MOSES

EXODUS 1–2

At the end of Genesis, Joseph and his family moved to Egypt. They lived in peace and grew into a large people. At the beginning of Exodus, there was a new Pharaoh in Egypt. He was afraid the Israelites were getting too powerful. So, he made them his slaves. Later, he had all newborn Hebrew boys thrown into the Nile River, but one woman put her baby in a basket in the river instead. Pharaoh's daughter found the basket and adopted the boy, naming him Moses. In this way, God saved him so, one day, He would use him to save all the Israelites from slavery.

When Moses grew up, he became upset seeing how Pharaoh treated his people. One day, he killed an Egyptian he saw beating a Jewish slave. Then Moses ran away to avoid punishment. Many years later, God spoke to Moses. The Lord told him to go back to Egypt and say to Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" At first, Moses did not want to go back. But God comforted him, saying He would be with him every step of the way. So, Moses and his brother Aaron went to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did Pharaoh want to enslave the Israelites?
2. How did Moses escape death as a baby?
3. Why did Moses flee to the desert, and what happened there?
4. How did God speak to Moses, and what did He tell him to do?

MAIN TAKEAWAYS

1

God delivered baby Moses to give him a greater future and purpose.

→ *Life Application:*

Just like He did for Moses, God has a plan and a purpose for each of us.

2

God used Moses even when he felt incapable.

→ *Life Application:*

Instead of focusing on our limitations, we should trust in God's strength and allow Him to work through us.

3

Even with God's display of power, Pharaoh hardened his heart.

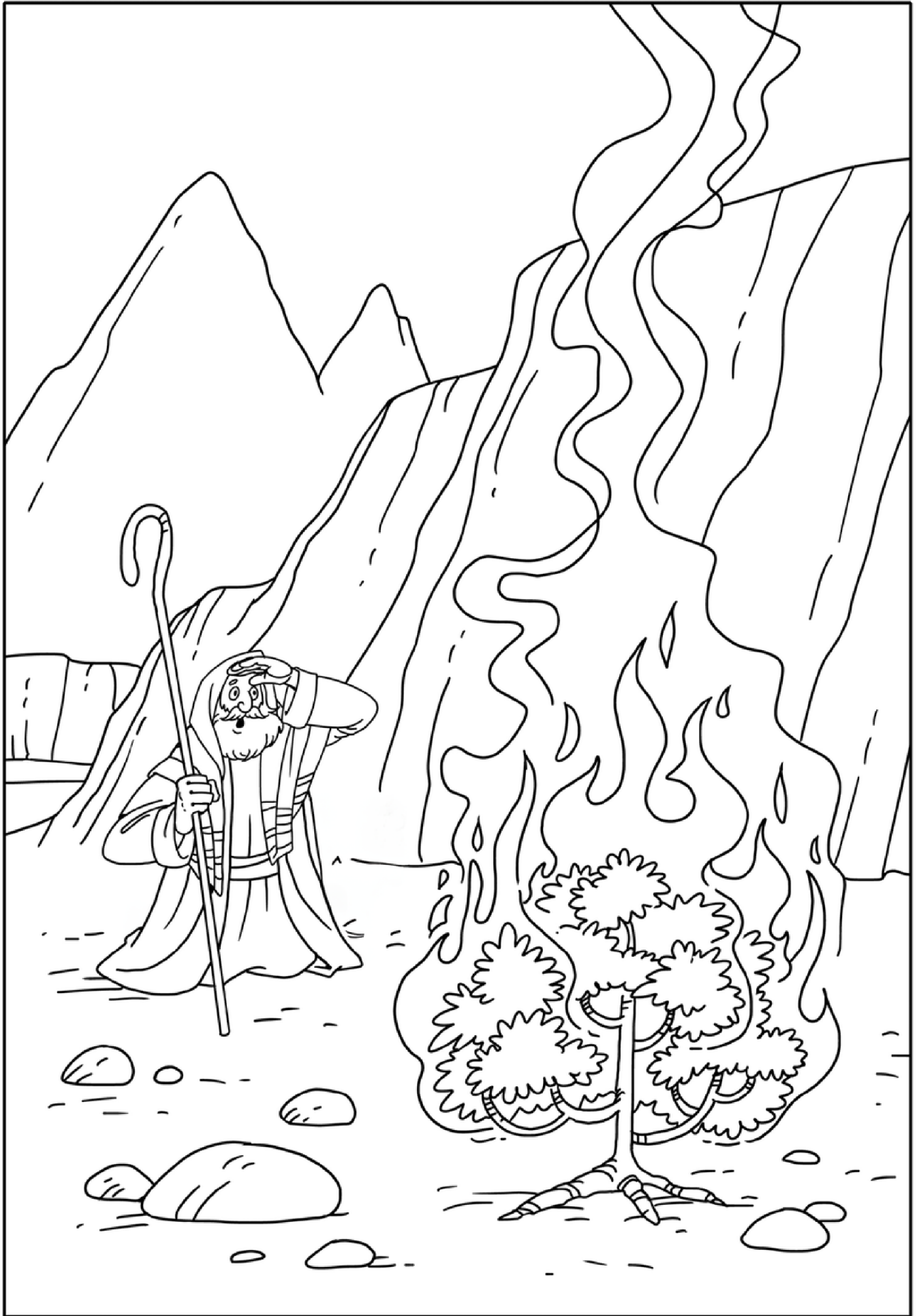
→ *Life Application:*

Pharaoh's hardened heart serves as a reminder of how some people may resist God's message despite witnessing His power. Similarly, we may encounter people who reject the truth of God's love and grace. In such situations, we should continue to pray for them and demonstrate God's love through our actions.

HOME DEVOTION

God spoke to Moses through a burning bush, showing His power and calling Moses to lead His people out of slavery. Just as God guided Moses, He also guides us in our lives. Even when we feel afraid or unsure, we can trust God to lead us and give us strength.

Let's remember Exodus 3:12, where God says to Moses, "I will be with you." He is with us when we face obstacles. Let's trust Him and follow where He leads, just as Moses did.



LESSON 2: A DEADLY PLAGUE & ISRAEL'S PREPARATION

Jesus the Messiah is the ultimate picture of Passover.

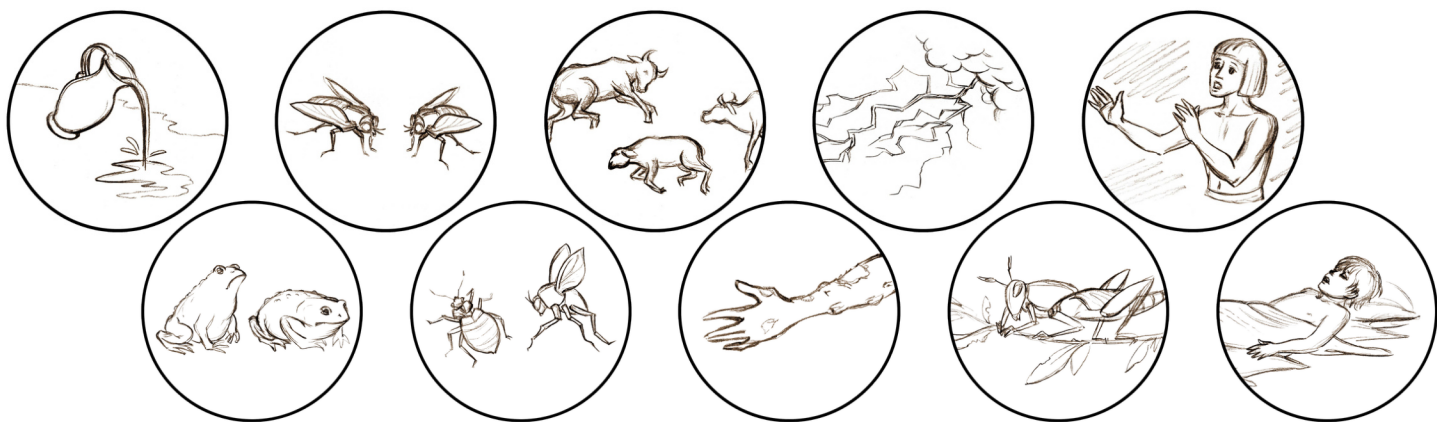
MEMORY VERSE

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Exodus 20:2

THE 10 PLAGUES

Moses asked Pharaoh many times to let his people go. But even after God sent nine plagues against Egypt, Pharaoh refused. He only said yes after the last plague—the death of the firstborn. With each plague, God showed He was better than all Egypt's gods. Egyptians believed there was a god for everything, like water, health, and more. Every plague touched one of these areas. The God of Israel has power over all.



After each plague, Pharaoh asked for it to stop. God had mercy and stopped the plague, but Pharaoh still would not let the Jewish slaves go free. So, the Lord sent one last, deadly plague. He told the Israelites to kill a lamb and put its blood above their doors. On this night, they had to eat the lamb and bread made without yeast (what makes bread fluffy). God struck all the firstborn in Egypt, both humans and animals, but anyone in a house with the blood of the lamb was safe. After 400 years of slavery, the Israelites were finally about to leave Egypt.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did Moses keep asking Pharaoh to let the Israelites go?
2. How many plagues did God send to Egypt before Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites leave?
3. How did the blood of the lamb protect the Israelites?

MAIN TAKEAWAYS

Common Themes	Israel in Exodus	Jesus
Slavery and bondage	Israel's slavery in Egypt	
God intervenes with miracles	God sent Moses to liberate Israel	
The lamb's blood	The sacrifice of the lamb	
The blood saves	The blood of the lamb on doorposts saved Israel	
No yeast for the journey	Israel got rid of all yeast in their homes	
Death of the firstborn	The firstborn of the Egyptians died	
The First Fruits	The festival after Passover	

HOME DEVOTION

In this powerful story of Moses and Pharaoh, we witness God's unwavering strength and mercy. Despite Pharaoh's stubbornness, God sent the first nine plagues to demonstrate His supremacy over Egypt's gods. With each plague, He showed His authority over every aspect of life. Yet Pharaoh persisted in his refusal to release the Israelites until the tenth and final devastating plague—the death of the firstborn. God instructed the Israelites to mark their doors with lamb's blood, ensuring their safety.

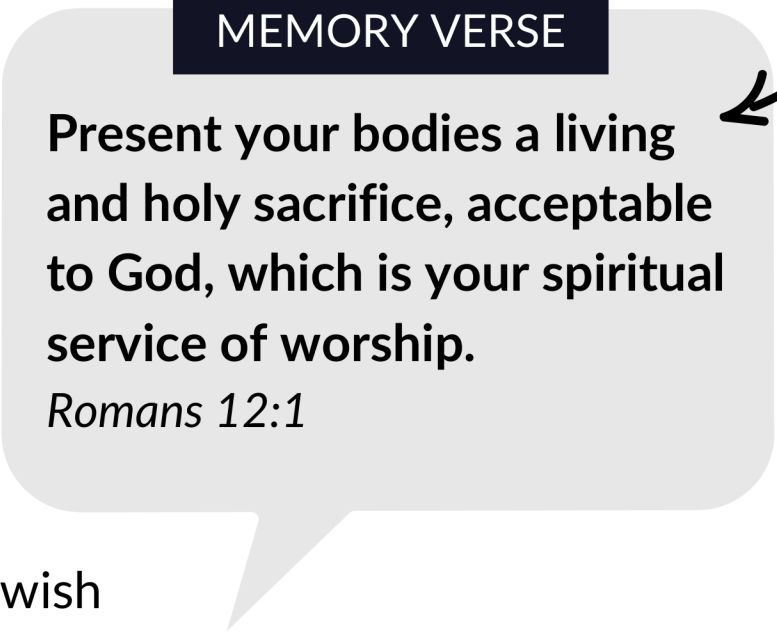
This event reminds us of God's protection and deliverance. Just as He freed the Israelites from slavery, He can also bring us out of any bondage we face.

LESSON 3: A NEVER-ENDING REMINDER—THE SEDER



Jesus fulfills every element of Passover.

MEMORY VERSE



Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Romans 12:1

THE SEDER

Every year at Passover, Jewish families have an interactive dinner called a “Seder.” This dinner centers around the Seder plate and four cups of grape juice or wine. These items also remind us how Jesus saved us.

THE SEDER PLATE HAS FIVE ITEMS:



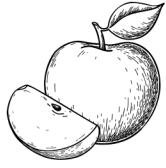
A **lamb's bone** reminds us Jesus is the lamb of God.



Horseradish, with its bitter taste, reminds us how bad sin is.



Parsley is similar to the branches the Israelites used to put the lamb's blood above their doors. It reminds us how we need the blood of Jesus to save us.



A mixture of **apple, nuts, and honey** reminds us of God's goodness.



A **roasted egg** reminds Jewish people of the Temple, which was destroyed two thousand years ago. If we believe in Jesus, we are God's Temple because His Spirit lives in us.

Each cup represents a promise God made to Moses:



The **cup of sanctification** reminds us how God saves us to worship Him.



The **cup of plagues** reminds us of the price Jesus paid to save us.



The **cup of redemption** reminds us of the lamb's blood.



The **cup of praise** reminds us how Jewish people, and all who trust in Jesus, are God's people.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS

1 God illustrated His perfect plan of redemption in the Passover and fulfilled it through Jesus.

→ ***Life Application:***

Even when things seem uncertain, we can have faith God is working everything out for our good.

2 Every promise God made, He will make come to pass, even if it takes a long time.

→ ***Life Application:***

Sometimes, we might have to wait for God's timing, but we can be sure He will always keep His word.

3 God wants us to remember Him and His love for us and His goodness.

→ ***Life Application:***

By keeping Him at the center of our lives and remembering all the ways He has blessed us, we can live with gratitude and trust in His unfailing love.

4 Our God is the one true God; there is no other God but Him.

→ ***Life Application:***

We can have confidence in His power, love, and faithfulness, knowing that He alone is worthy of our worship and devotion.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

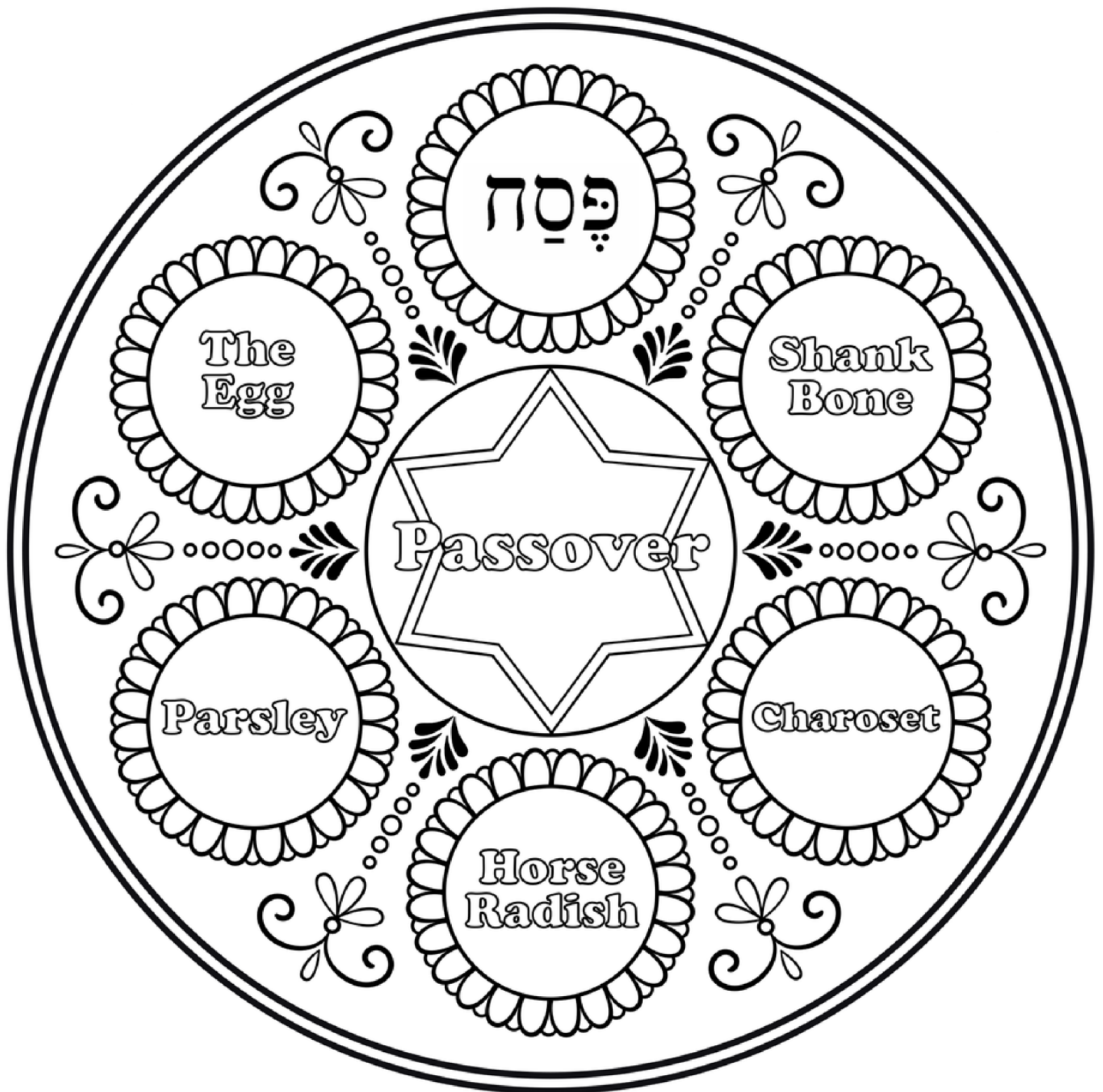
1. What special dinner do Jewish families have every year to remember Passover?
2. What are the items on the Seder plate?
3. What do each of the four cups of grape juice represent?

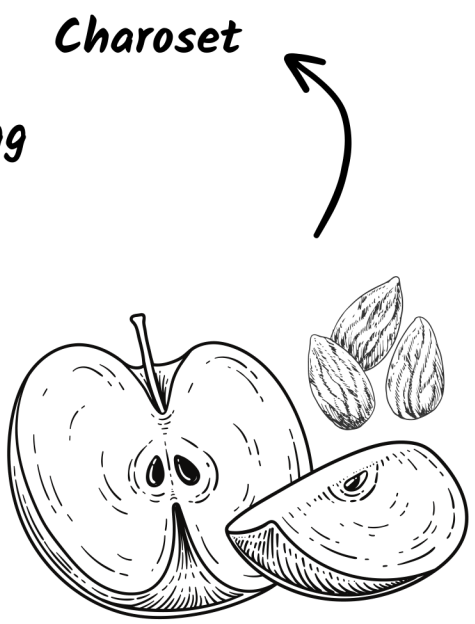
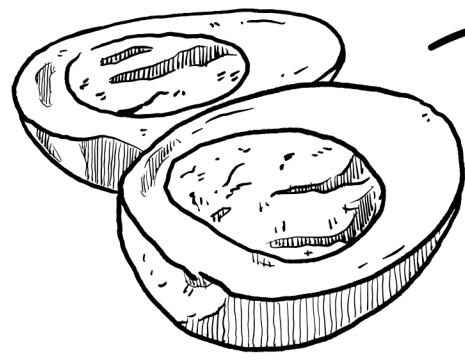
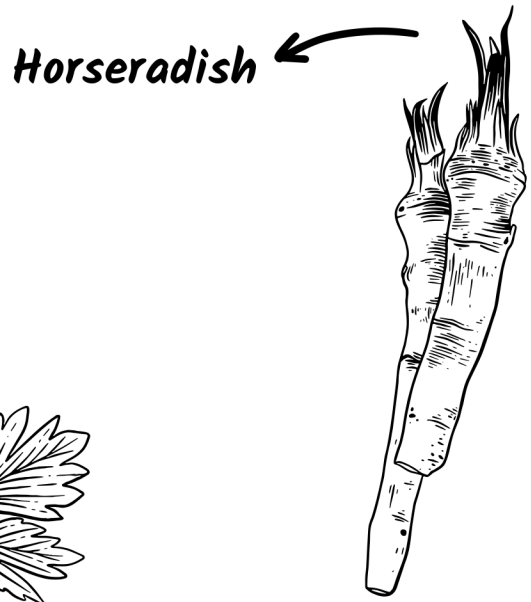
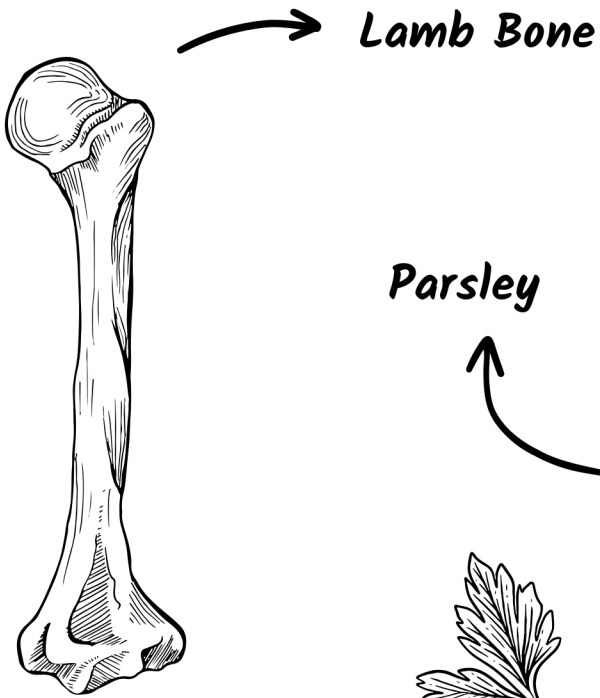
HOME DEVOTION

The Seder dinner reminds us of God's love and how Jesus saved us. The Seder plate items symbolize Jesus as the Lamb of God, sin's bitterness, our need for Jesus' blood, God's goodness, and His Spirit in us. The four cups represent promises fulfilled by Jesus. Let's remember God's love and Jesus' sacrifice every Passover, when we see a Seder plate or drink from the 4 cups. Jesus is our hero forever!

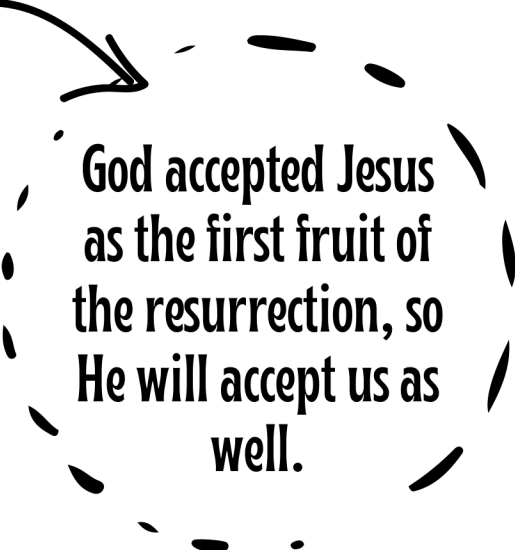
PREPARE YOUR OWN SEDER PLATE

Cut the plate and the seder elements in the next page.



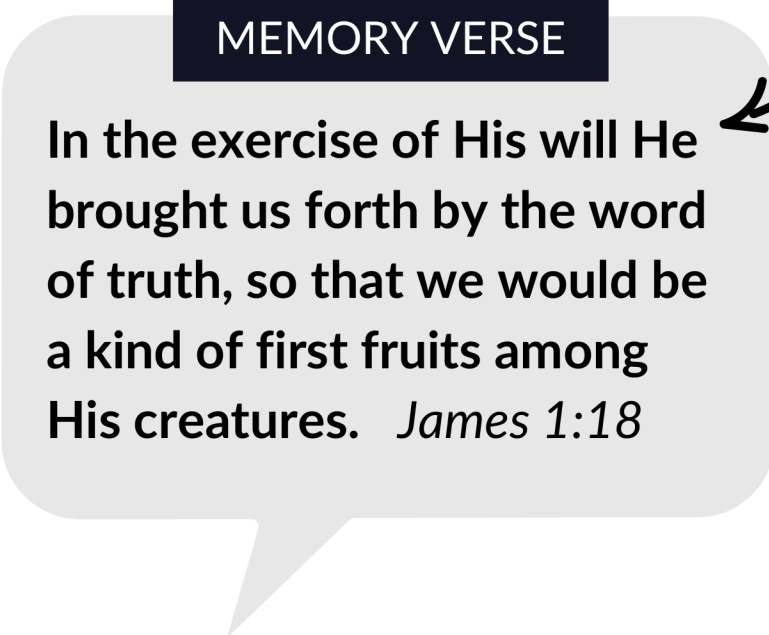


LESSON 4: THE FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS—BEST IN CLASS



God accepted Jesus
as the first fruit of
the resurrection, so
He will accept us as
well.

MEMORY VERSE



In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. *James 1:18*

FIRST FRUITS

The Feast of First Fruits is the day after the Sabbath of Passover. On this day, Israel brought their first fruits to the priest. He would present them before the Lord. This practice showed how, since God accepted the first fruits, He would accept the rest. Jesus died during Passover. He rose from the dead on the very day the priests presented Israel's fruit before God. The Feast of First Fruits points to Jesus! The first fruits the priest would offer to God represented the best. So, too, Jesus represents the best of humanity. Since God accepts Him, He will also accept all those who trust in Jesus.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS

1 Jesus rose from the grave on the Feast of First Fruits.

→ *Life Application:*

Let's remember because Jesus lives, we have hope for eternal life.

2 Jesus represents the very best of us.

→ *Life Application:*

Let's strive to follow His example of love, compassion, and righteousness in everything we do. By imitating Him, we can bring light and goodness into the world.

3 Because God accepted Jesus as the first fruits of the resurrection, we can be confident He will accept us too.

→ *Life Application:*

Trusting in Jesus, we can approach God with assurance, knowing His love and grace are extended to all who believe in Him.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the Feast of First Fruits?
2. How does the Feast of First Fruits point to Jesus?
3. Who will God accept because of Jesus?

HOME DEVOTION

The Feast of First Fruits marked Israel's offering of their best to God. It's cool because Jesus' resurrection matched this feast, showing He's humanity's ultimate "first fruit." Just as God accepted Jesus, He welcomes us when we trust in Him. Remember, you're valuable to God, just like Jesus!