



CHOSEN PEOPLE
MINISTRIES



**OLIVE
TREEHOUSE**
MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER



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 was liberating 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.

THE HARDENED HEART OF PHARAOH

The book of Genesis closes with Joseph and all his brothers moving from the land of Canaan to Egypt, where Joseph lived and ruled peacefully alongside Pharaoh as the second in command. There in Egypt, Israel multiplied and grew into a people so large their size threatened the new Pharaoh in charge who did not know about all the good Joseph did for Egypt.

Exodus opens with this Pharaoh's new rule: enslave the Israelites. For the next 400 years, the Israelites—Jewish people—were forced to work mixing mortar, making brick, and working in the fields (Exod 1:14). But the more Egypt oppressed God's people, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread (1:12). So, Pharaoh came up with another order: **throw every Hebrew boy born into the Nile River (1:22)!**

While this horrific tragedy was happening, there was one Hebrew woman who put her baby in a basket. The daughter of Pharaoh found the floating basket and adopted the baby boy, naming him Moses (2:9). Through these actions, God delivered this baby boy so, through him, God would deliver all His people out of slavery.

BIBLE REFERENCE

Exodus 1–2

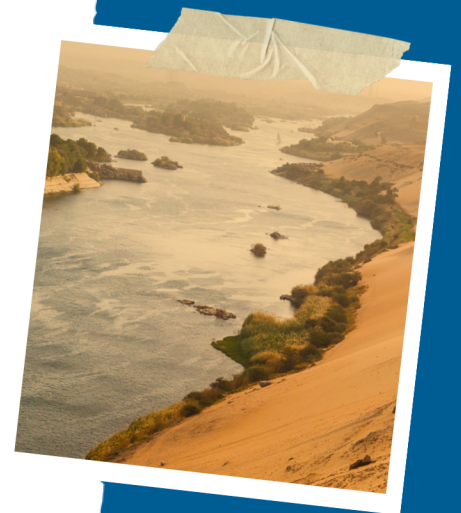
LESSON FOCUS

God will deliver His people.

MEMORY VERSE

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

Psalm 121:2



When Moses grew up, he became very upset to see how his people—Jewish people—were being treated and abused.

On one occasion, when he saw an Egyptian taskmaster beating a Jewish slave, Moses killed the Egyptian (Exod 2:11–12). This was a horrible crime in Egypt, punishable by death, so Moses fled to the desert in fear for his own life. Many years later, when Moses was living in Midian, God spoke to him through a burning bush (Exod 3). The Lord told him to go back to Egypt and say to Pharaoh, “Let my people go!”



Although Moses was at first reluctant to go back to Egypt, he obeyed God and went to Pharaoh. Pharaoh challenged Moses and his brother Aaron to prove who their God really was. When Aaron threw his staff on the ground, it turned into a snake, showing God’s power. However, the Pharaoh’s sages did the same with their staffs through their secret dark arts. Instantly, Aaron’s staff swallowed those of the sages and proved God’s superiority over any other god. Still, Pharaoh’s heart remained hardened. He refused to let the Israelites worship God (Exod 7:13).



BIBLE REFERENCE

Exodus 1–2

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THREE MAIN TAKEAWAYS

1

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

2

God used Moses even when he felt incapable.

3

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

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

Psalm 121:2

ACTIVITIES

Floating basket race

- Have kids make their own small baskets out of buoyant materials (straws, foam, popsicle sticks, toothpicks, etc.).
- Have the teacher fill an aluminum pan with water.
- Kids place their baskets on one end of the pan and blow on their basket until it reaches the other side of the pan.

The activity resembles how God rescued Moses when he was a baby.

A DEADLY PLAGUE AND ISRAEL'S PREPARATION

Moses asked Pharaoh many times to let the Jewish people go free and worship the God of Israel. But even after nine plagues fell on Egypt, Pharaoh's heart was still hard, and he would not let the Israelites go. Only after the final and fatal plague—the angel of death killing all the firstborn in Egypt—did Pharaoh finally relent.



Let us recount the first nine plagues God sent on Egypt, as each of them represented a battle between the God of Israel and the Egyptian gods. The Egyptians had gods for everything—water, crops, livestock, health, etc. God intentionally directed each plague toward one of these areas to expose the Egyptian gods as false. With every plague, Moses struck the dust, and a plague afflicted the land of Egypt. This action was the same way Aaron's staff turned into a snake and defeated the Egyptian sages' staffs. With each plague, Pharaoh begged Moses to intercede on his behalf; the Lord had mercy and removed the plague from the land.

BIBLE REFERENCE

Exodus 7

LESSON FOCUS

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



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Exodus 20:2

- 1 All water in Egypt turned to blood.
- 2 Frogs infested the land.
- 3 Lice, or gnats, filled Egypt.
- 4 Flies made Egypt a wasteland.
- 5 Disease struck livestock, causing them all to die.
- 6 Skin boils broke out on people and animals.
- 7 Hail destroyed crops.
- 8 Locusts ate whatever the hail spared.
- 9 Darkness covered Egypt like a cloak.
- 10 Death of the firstborn.



Despite all the acts of mercy toward Pharaoh after every plague and his begging for relief, he hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites go. Not until the tenth—and most deadly—plague did Pharaoh let the Jewish slaves go. As the firstborn children of the Egyptians died, God intended for people to know the difference between Egypt and Israel—and between the gods of Egypt and the God of Israel. God sovereignly chose Jewish people to live, affirming His covenant made with Abraham, taking the Israelites to be His people and establishing Himself as their God (Exodus 6:7; Jeremiah 31:33).

Meanwhile, the Lord gave specific instructions to the Israelites so their lives would be spared. They had to clean their houses and get rid of all chametz (khamets). Chametz is yeast or leaven, so they had to throw out all their bread. Instead, they had to bake matzah (bread without yeast) and sacrifice a lamb.

The lamb was to be perfect, with no spots or bruises and no broken bones. Jewish people had to take blood from the lamb and put it on the doorposts of the houses so the Angel of Death would “pass over” those homes. Israel was to roast the lamb and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. God specifically told the Israelites to stand while eating their food so they would be ready to leave the land of Egypt—where they had been slaves for more than 400 years.

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MAIN TAKEAWAYS

Jesus the Messiah is the ultimate picture of Passover. Who He is and what He did parallels the Passover of the Israelites in Egypt in several ways:

Common Themes	Israel in Exodus	Jesus
Slavery and bondage	Israel's slavery in Egypt	People in slavery to sin
God intervenes with miracles	God sent Moses to liberate Israel	God sent Jesus to save us
The lamb's blood	The sacrifice of the lamb	Jesus, the Lamb of God, sacrificed Himself for us
The blood saves	The blood of the lamb on doorposts saved Israel	The blood of Jesus marks us for salvation when we believe in Him
No yeast for the journey	Israel got rid of all yeast in their homes	Jesus cleanses us from our sin (yeast) and bids us to sin no more
Death of the firstborn	The firstborn of the Egyptians died	Jesus, God's Son, died so we could live
The First Fruits	The festival after Passover	Jesus is the first fruit of the resurrection

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



ACTIVITIES

Blood on the doorpost relay race

- Get two long pieces of cardboard and tape to the wall to represent the doorposts.
- Have kids make two lines (teams).
- The first person in each line receives a small stack of red post-it notes.
- When the teacher says “Go!,” the first person in line takes one post-it note, passes the notes to the next person, and runs to the doorpost to place it there.
- Then they tag the next person in line to take a post-it and run to the doorpost. The first team to completely cover their doorpost wins.

A NEVER-ENDING REMINDER —THE SEDER

Every year during Passover, Jewish people remember the mighty work of the Lord God, just as the Bible commands (Exodus 12:42). The way the Jewish community celebrates is by having an interactive dinner called a “Seder.” There are two primary symbols without which the celebration would be incomplete: the Seder plate and the four cups.



THE SEDER PLATE

Each item on the Seder plate reminds us of a key theme in the Passover but also points to an eternal fulfillment in Messiah.

BIBLE REFERENCE

Exodus 12

LESSON FOCUS

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



Lamb Shank

The lamb shank bone is a reminder of the lamb sacrificed at Passover to provide the blood the Israelites placed on the doorframes and lintels of their homes as we read in lesson one. When the angel of death passed through Egypt, if he saw the blood, he would pass over the home. Today, believers remember the sacrifice of the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29), whose blood now covers us.



Horseradish

The horseradish is what we use today as the bitter herb the Bible mentions (Exodus 12:8). The bitterness of the horseradish reminds us of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt. Today, horseradish reminds us of the bitterness of slavery to sin and our need for the redeemer, Jesus (Yeshua).

Parsley

The parsley is a reminder of the hyssop plant the Israelites used to paint the blood on their doorframes and lintels, and it reminds us of the blood of the Lamb of God painted on our hearts, ultimately providing each of us with new birth as we are born again.

BIBLE REFERENCE

Exodus 12

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Romans 12:1



Apple, Nut, & Honey

The apple, nut, and honey mixture is a sweet reminder of the temporary nature of bitterness—as the Israeli slavery under Egypt had an end; there is hope when you trust in the Lord. Today, we remember how God delivered us from the bitterness of slavery to sin and how sweet eternal life with Him will be.

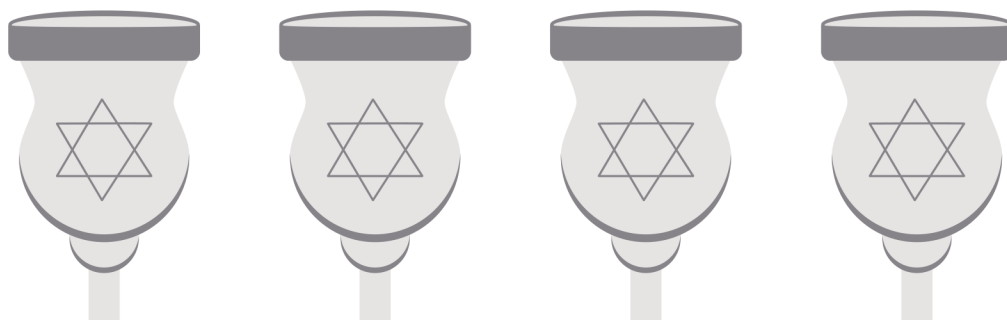


Roasted Egg

Finally, the roasted egg is a reminder of the Temple the Romans destroyed in AD 70. Today, we remember the once-for-all sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. Moreover, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have become the temple of God, His dwelling place, and our devotion to God is the acceptable sacrifice (Romans 12:1).

THE FOUR CUPS

Drinking from a cup of wine or grape juice four times is a dominant theme in the Seder. Each cup represents a promise God made to Moses in connection with the exodus from Egypt (Exodus 6:6–7).



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The Cup of Sanctification:

The first promise was to bring the children of Israel out from under Egyptian slavery. However, the Scripture tells us the specific purpose behind this promise was to worship Him, thus setting them apart and making them holy. Today, we can apply this principle to believers in Jesus as the Lord set us free from our bondage to sin in order to be free to worship Him.

The Cup of Plagues:

The second promise was the promise of deliverance, but it took the plagues to accomplish it.

Therefore, we first remember the cost at which our deliverance came—the death of every firstborn child in Egypt. As believers, our deliverance only came through the death—and subsequent resurrection—of the firstborn Son of God.

The Cup of Redemption:

This cup is a reminder of the blood of the Passover lamb, which redeemed the Israelites in Egypt and ultimately set them free. During Jesus' last Seder, He connected redemption and the blood of the Passover lamb with Himself, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood" (1 Corinthians 11:25; Luke 22:20). This connection forms the basis for what is celebrated today as communion.

BIBLE REFERENCE

Exodus 12

LESSON FOCUS

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 Cup of Praise:

The fourth promise in which God said He would make us—Jewish people—His people, and He our God. Today, Jewish and Gentile believers can fully celebrate how, through Messiah and our faith in Him, God has taken us to be His people, and He is our God.

BIBLE REFERENCE

Exodus 12

LESSON FOCUS

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



MAIN TAKEAWAYS

1

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

2

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

3

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

4

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

Romans 12:1



ACTIVITIES

Search for the Chametz

- The Passover Seder begins with the search for leaven because we are supposed to remove all the leaven from the house before the Seder starts (Exodus 12:15).
- Children are typically the ones who hunt for leaven.
- Hide bagels, muffins, bread, cereal, pizza, cookies, or anything with yeast in it all over the room for the kids to find.
 - These could be plastic representations of the foods, like toys or magnets, or the real thing, which they will be quite happy about!
 - If the food is real, make sure to seal the items in plastic bags to prevent a mess.

THE FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS —BEST IN CLASS

The Feast of First Fruits is a holiday intricately tied to Passover. On the day after the Sabbath of Passover, the Lord commanded the Israelites to bring the first fruits of the harvest. The priest would wave the sheaf, and in the waving, the Lord said He would accept the Israelites (Leviticus 23:9–11). In other words, through the offering of the first fruits of the harvest, God would accept the rest.



Jesus' death on the cross took place during the week of Passover. When looking at the Gospels, we see Jesus died on the day before the Sabbath began (Good Friday). He rose from the dead on the third day, which would be Sunday since Jewish days start at sunset.

BIBLE REFERENCE

Leviticus 23

LESSON FOCUS

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



Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians, “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of the resurrection” (1 Cor 15:20). For the apostle, the term first fruits had a very specific meaning, referring to the Feast of First Fruits. In Paul’s mind, Jesus, having risen from the tomb on the day when the priest made the first fruits offering, was the ultimate fulfillment of this holiday.

In the same way the first fruits of the harvest represented the very best of the crop, **Jesus represented the very best of humanity.** Moreover, as God the Father accepted the first fruits offering of Jesus, God also accepts the rest—all those who believe.



BIBLE REFERENCE

Leviticus 23

LESSON FOCUS

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



MAIN TAKEAWAYS

1

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

2

Jesus represents the very best of us.

3

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

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

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James 1:18

ACTIVITIES

COLORING PAGE

Print and cut out items representing harvest offerings (grains, wheat, veggies, etc.) for the children to color. Then ask the children to bring their offering to Jesus and thank Him for being the First Fruit of the Resurrection.

Introduction (5 minutes):

Begin by discussing the concept of harvest, its significance, and the importance of offering gratitude to Jesus, the First Fruit of the Resurrection. Share the memory verse.

Printing and Cutting (15 minutes):

Provide printed templates of harvest items or draw them on large sheets of paper for the children to cut out.

Materials Needed:

1. Printed templates of harvest items
2. Scissors
3. Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
4. Glue or tape
5. Construction paper or cardstock for backing (optional)
6. Bible verses related to harvest and gratitude

ACTIVITIES

Coloring (20 minutes):

Let the children color their cut-out harvest items with crayons, colored pencils, or markers.

Encourage them to think about the colors of a vibrant and fruitful harvest as they color.

Preparing Offerings (10 minutes):

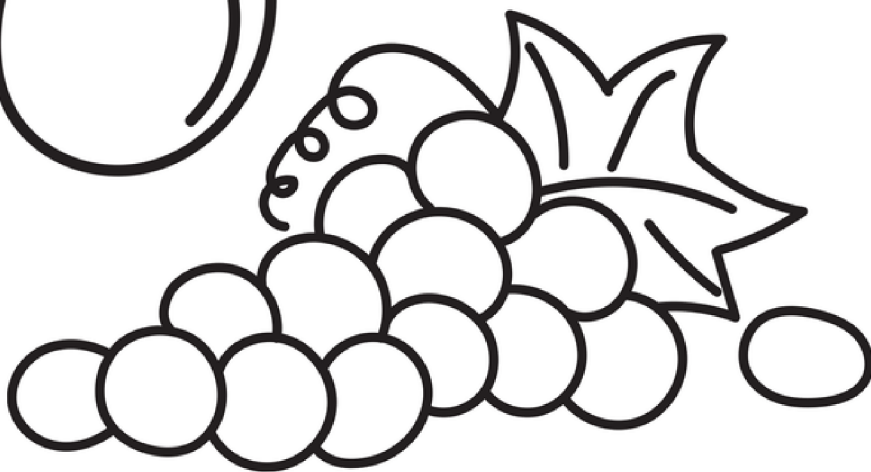
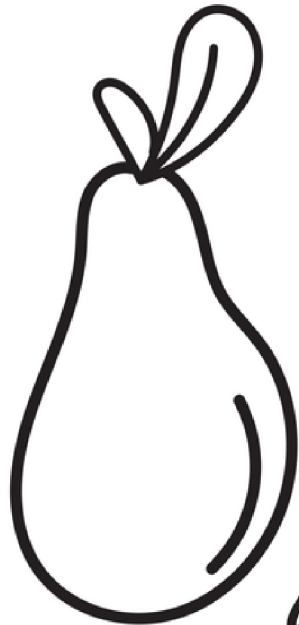
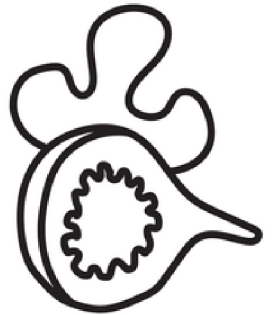
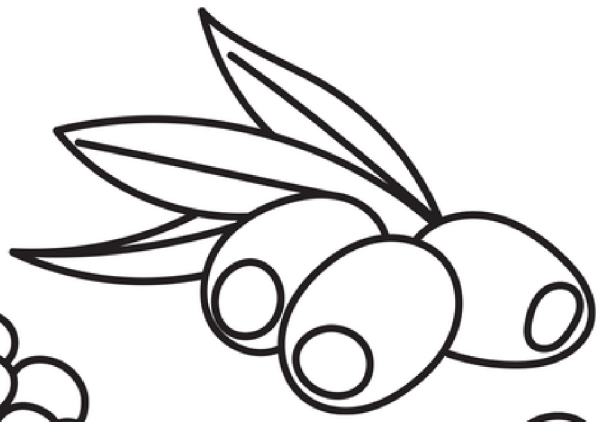
Have the children arrange their colored harvest items on construction paper or cardstock. Discuss the idea that these items are symbolic offerings of gratitude to Jesus.

Reflection (10 minutes):

Gather the children and ask them to reflect on why they are thankful for Jesus being the First Fruit of the Resurrection.

Bringing Offerings to "Jesus" (10 minutes):

Create a designated space in the classroom or church where children can place their crafted offerings as a symbolic presentation to Jesus.



ACTIVITIES

CLAY FIRSTFRUITS

Introduction (5 minutes):

Begin by discussing the importance of giving and offerings in a simple and child-friendly manner. Share the memory verse.

Preparation (5 minutes):

Set up the workstations with clay, tools, and other materials.

Choosing Fruits (10 minutes):

Guide the children in choosing which fruits they'd like to create with the clay. Encourage diversity, and explain that they are making an offering basket.

Creating Clay Fruits (30 minutes):

Demonstrate how to mold basic fruit shapes like apples, oranges, grapes, and bananas using the clay.

Materials Needed:

- Air-dry clay in various colors (red, orange, green, yellow, purple, etc.)
- Plastic knives or clay sculpting tools
- Small baskets
- Craft glue
- Paints and paintbrushes
- Markers
- Plastic tablecloth or newspaper for easy cleanup
- Printed Bible verses related to giving and offerings

ACTIVITIES

Drying Time (10 minutes):

Allow the clay fruits to air-dry. This might take some time, so it's a good opportunity for a short break or to discuss more about giving and offerings.

Fruit Basket (10 minutes):

Once the clay fruits are dry, guide the children in arranging them in their small baskets.

Decorating the Basket (10 minutes):

Provide markers, paints, and other decorative materials for the children to personalize their baskets.

Closing (5 minutes):

Gather the children and read another Bible verse about giving or offerings. Encourage them to take their fruit baskets home as a reminder to honor the Lord with their gifts.

Materials Needed:

- Air-dry clay in various colors (red, orange, green, yellow, purple, etc.)
- Plastic knives or clay sculpting tools
- Small baskets
- Craft glue
- Paints and paintbrushes
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- Plastic tablecloth or newspaper for easy cleanup
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