



Resurrection Day – Jesus is Risen!

Retelling

Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead—it is the most extraordinary day in the history of the world! Jesus, the Son of God who came to save us, had lived and ministered among His people for 33 years. People who didn't understand His unique mission plotted to kill him. But nothing could stop Jesus! On this day, we celebrate the fact that He conquered death. He is risen!

This didn't happen at just any time—the season of the year was significant. At the time of Jesus' death and resurrection, Jewish people were celebrating the Passover, a time to remember their redemption from slavery in Egypt. The Lord had protected His people during the plagues and parted sea waters for them to pass through safely during their flight from Egypt. The Lord also provided the Israelites with food, water, clothing, and shelter in the desert as they wandered for 40 years before coming to the Promised Land. Since Passover is one of the three "appointed feasts" (Leviticus 23), there were many Jewish people in Jerusalem for the holiday as Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Passover there.

At the first Passover, the blood of a perfect lamb was put on the doorposts of the Israelite homes, so the Angel of Death would "pass over" them during the tenth, most terrible plague—the slaying of the first-born. Jesus' disciples had to kill a perfect, unblemished lamb that would be roasted and eaten for the Passover meal.

The night before Jesus was crucified, as He celebrated the Passover with the disciples, He took the traditional matzah (unleavened bread), broken, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me" (I Corinthians 11:24). He also took the third cup—which is known as the Cup of Redemption in the Passover ceremony—and said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me" (I Corinthians 11:25).

Jesus' declarations were not a normal part of the Passover meal—they were something new. The disciples, who knew the traditional Passover, were shocked to hear Him say these words. They still didn't understand fully that He was the Messiah who would die for the sins of the world—but they would come to understand very soon.



Jesus is the fulfillment of the Passover. Just as the children of Israel were protected in Egypt by the blood of the unblemished lamb, Jesus' shed blood protects those who trust in Him from the just judgment of God. By believing in Jesus, death cannot hold us—we will have eternal life with Him.



The Jewish people were also instructed to offer the first fruits of the harvest to the Lord on the day following the Passover Sabbath (Saturday). Messiah's resurrection occurred on this day, during the celebration of the Feast of First Fruits. Just as the Lord commanded the people to offer the best of their harvest, to make a sacrifice of

faith (Lev. 23:9-14), God the Father offered His most precious gift—His own Son. By giving the Lord our best, we hope and trust that He will provide in the future. In the same way, Jesus' resurrection gives us hope that we too will experience resurrection in the future and "sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11).

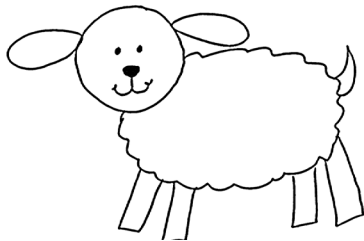
Jesus is our perfect Passover Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. As the disciples celebrated Passover, and as He identified Himself with the unleavened bread and the Cup of Redemption, we remember Him even today with those elements. He is the "first fruit" of the resurrection, and we who have faith in Him can share in the hope of eternal life because of His sacrifice.

Main Points

- 1) It was not a coincidence that Jesus was crucified during the Passover week. Just as the sacrificial Passover lamb had to be perfect, Jesus, the Lamb of God, was also perfect, sinless and innocent. He gave up His life willingly for us.
- 2) Jesus was raised from the dead during the Feast of First Fruits. This is a symbol that teaches that everyone who places their faith in Him will be resurrected, as He was (Romans 8).
- 3) His sacrifice paid the price for our sin, and we can believe in Him as our redeemer and savior.
- 4) Easter is not about bunnies, egg hunts and baby chicks. Since Easter falls in the springtime, the bunnies, eggs and baby chicks remind us of new life, just as there are new leaves on the trees after a dead winter. Jesus is life and brings eternal life—and that is what we need to remember about Easter.



- 5) At Passover, we see how Jesus' blood was shed to save us from the Angel of Death. His blood covers us and gives us life! Jesus is the fulfillment of the Feasts of Israel we read about in the Old Testament. If we like, we can even call the holiday of Easter "First Fruits" or "Resurrection Day," since Jesus is the perfect offering made on our behalf for an eternal sacrifice to save us from death.
- 6) He is Risen! Our God is a mighty God, and no other can do what He has done.



Craft

Trace the outline of a lamb on a paper and fill it in using soft cotton balls and glue. Write "He is Risen!" and list all the things for which you are thankful to God. Pray for those who do not know Him yet, and write down their names on your picture of the lamb.

Hebrew Words

Se ('say') – Hebrew for "Lamb"

Hu Kam – Hebrew for "He is Risen"

Meshiach – Hebrew for "Messiah"

Bible Verses

Luke 24:1-12 – Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. 3 Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"

8 And they remembered His words. 9 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and

the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

John 1:29 - The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Games/Snack

If appropriate, the kids can take a piece of *matzah* and grape juice and remember how Jesus' body was broken for us and His blood was shed for us. Give thanks that we can be forgiven because of His sacrifice. He died for our sins so that if we believe, we will have eternal life with Him!