SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 20

God ordains the Passover
Exodus 11:1–13:22

DAY 1
The LORD planned one last plague • Exodus 11:1–8; 12:12

READ
Exodus 11:1–8; 12:12

EXPLAIN
The truth of Exodus 11:1–8; 12:12
God's purpose in the first half of Exodus was to show His power and deliver His people. He did this so that they would worship Him as their very own God. But after nine plagues, Israel was still in slavery. So God sent a tenth plague, the most powerful, to deliver His people. God said that every firstborn male in all of Egypt, would die from the firstborn of Pharaoh to the firstborn of the slave; even the firstborn of the cattle. Unlike the previous plagues, God Himself would personally go through Egypt to make this plague happen. The death of the firstborn was a just punishment: because Pharaoh refused to release Israel, whom God had chosen to be His firstborn, God would kill Pharaoh's firstborn (4:22–23). But God would protect Israel, His firstborn. This plague would cause Pharaoh to send his officials to bow before Moses, desperately begging the Israelites to leave. When God decides to deliver, He has the power to make it happen (Col 2:15).

ASK
1. Why did God send the plagues?
   To show His power and rescue Israel, so that Israel would worship Him.
2. What are the ten plagues?
   Nile to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, cattle disease, boils, hail, locust, darkness, death of firstborn.
3. What was the last plague?
   Death of the firstborn.
4. Why was this final plague fair?
   Pharaoh refused to release Israel, which was God's firstborn, so God would kill Pharaoh's firstborn.

DISCUSS
1. How does this plague show the way God loves and protects His children?
2. When God saved Israel from Egypt, it was so that Israel would worship Him. Why does Jesus save sinners from hell? What is wrong with someone who "believes" in order to get out of hell, but does not actually love God?

DAY 2 *The LORD gave a Passover sacrifice • Exodus 12:1–13, 21–23*

READ

Exodus 12:1–13, 21–23

EXPLAIN

The truth of Exodus 12:1–13, 21–23

To save Israel from the final plague, God gave the Passover sacrifice. Each family (or group of small families) chose a one-year-old, unblemished lamb and kept it with them for four days. On the fourteenth of the month, in the evening, they slaughtered the lamb and used a hyssop branch to brush the blood on the sides and top of the doorway. Then they stayed inside the house until morning. They roasted the lamb, ate it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, and burnt any leftovers. While eating, they were ready to leave at a moment's notice. When the LORD passed through Egypt, He saw the blood, passed over them, and did not allow the destroyer to enter their houses. Blood is necessary for sins to be forgiven (Heb 9:22). That is why Abel, Noah, and Abraham all made blood sacrifices. However, the blood of animals cannot finally pay for sins (Heb 10:4), and faithful believers in the Old Testament sacrificed by faith in what the animal sacrifices looked forward to (Gen 22:14).

ASK

1. What did the Israelites do to be protected from the plague?
   They killed a lamb and put its blood around their doorways.
2. What was this called?
   The Passover. God passed over them when He was judging.
3. What happened when the plague came?
   Death is necessary for sins to be forgiven.

DISCUSS

1. Have you ever seen an animal slaughtered? What would it be like to have a lamb as a pet for a few days and then kill it? What would your neighbors think if there was blood around your door?
2. Why don't we offer sacrifices like this anymore (1 Pet 3:18; Heb 10:4)?.

DAY 3 *The LORD killed the firstborn • Exodus 12:29–41; 13:17–22*

READ

Exodus 12:29–41; 13:17–22

EXPLAIN

The truth of Exodus 12:29–41; 13:17–22

What would it have been like on that awful night when God killed every firstborn? Loud wailing filled the land of Egypt. There was someone dead in every house. In their agony, Pharaoh and the Egyptians urged the Israelites to leave immediately, and just as God promised, they gave the Israelites gold and silver jewelry, which would later be used to build God's tabernacle (38:24–31). Israel departed, a huge crowd of likely over 2 million people, not to mention many non-Israelites who joined them (12:38). As they left, God led them with His own presence, appearing in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Imagine seeing all of this! But also realize Israel's new position: since God set them free from Pharaoh, they now belonged to God (cf. Col 1:13). He did not free them to do whatever they wanted. He freed them to follow Him. Also, Moses brought along the bones of Joseph (13:19), a reminder of God's faithfulness to keep His promises (Gen 50:24–25).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK

1. What did it sound like the night of Passover?
   Loud wailing filled the land of Egypt.
2. What did the Egyptians give the Israelites?
   The Egyptians were so afraid of Israel that they gave them gold and silver.
3. After being delivered from Pharaoh's power, who became Israel's leader?
   God. He led them on their way out of Egypt by fire and by cloud.

DISCUSS

1. How did God show that He was Israel's new leader? How did He show that He is a good leader?
2. Have you been saved by Jesus? When you look at your attitudes, words, and actions, is it clear that He is your new king (Col 1:13)?

DAY 4

The LORD commanded Israel to remember • Exodus 12:14–28; 13:1–16

READ

Exodus 12:14–28; 13:1–16

EXPLAIN

The truth of Exodus 12:14–28; 13:1–16

Do you ever ask you parents why they do something? God gave Israel three ceremonies, so that when the children asked why they did these ceremonies, the parents could explain how God had saved them. First, the Passover meal reminded them that the LORD had passed over them without killing their firstborn. Second, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was to remind them and their children that the LORD had brought them out of slavery in Egypt. It reminded them of how they left so quickly that they did not even have time to let their dough become leavened. Third, they were to set apart every firstborn male as belonging to the LORD. Animal firstborn were to be sacrificed. For human firstborn, an animal was sacrificed in their place. All the firstborn belonged to God, since He had delivered them and since all Israel belonged to God as His firstborn and as His redeemed people. Later, God would choose the Levites in the place of the firstborn to serve as His special ministers (Num 3:12–13). Parents were to use these three ceremonies to teach their children about God's salvation.

ASK

1. Why did God give these three ceremonies?
   So that parents could teach their children. So that Israel would not forget how God had saved them.
2. What did the Passover supper help the Israelites remember?
   That the LORD had passed over them during the death of the firstborn.
3. What did the Feast of Unleavened Bread help the Israelites remember?
   That the LORD had quickly brought them out of slavery in Egypt.
4. What did the consecration of the firstborn help the Israelites remember?
   That all the firstborn belonged to God, since He had delivered them.

DISCUSS

1. Do you have special times or days to remember important events? What do you do to remember God and what He has done to save?
2. What two things do we do in church to remember salvation? (Baptism and the Lord's Supper.)

DAY 5

Jesus is the Passover Lamb for believers • 1 Corinthians 5:6–8

READ

1 Corinthians 5:1–13

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Corinthians 5:6–8

The Passover pointed forward to Jesus as our Passover lamb. The lamb looked forward to our Messiah, who was slaughtered like a lamb without any bones being broken (Isa 53:7; John 19:36). The blood of the lamb that delivered Israel from physical death is a sign of the blood of Jesus that delivers believers from eternal death (Eph 1:7). The hyssop represents purification and cleansing from sin (Heb 9;19; Ps 51:7). The need to stay in the house protected by the blood illustrates that only those protected by Christ's blood are delivered from hell (Heb 10:29). The unleavened bread represented Israel's hasty departure from idolatrous Egypt. It represents the need to stay pure, since sin, like leaven, spreads quickly. Finally, Israel was delivered when God saw the blood and passed over them, so we are delivered when God sees the blood of Jesus and passes over us (Rom 5:9). So in 1 Corinthians 5, Paul was using the Passover meal to urge the Corinthian church to live holy lives. Since Christ has died, we are free from sin and should live pure and holy lives.

ASK

1. Who is the Passover Lamb for believers?
   Jesus.
2. What does the hyssop represent?
   Purification and cleansing from sin.
3. What does leaven represent in the Bible?
   Influence (usually evil).
4. Why should we live holy lives?
   Because Jesus has set us free from sin and He is now our new master.

DISCUSS

1. Are you free from sin or still a slave to it? Do you love Jesus and desire what is right (even if you fail many times), or would you still prefer to sin if you could avoid the consequences?
2. What happens when you allow sin to continue in your life and do not deal with it?

NEXT WEEK

God parts the Red Sea

Exodus 14:1–15:21