



## LESSON 20

*God ordains the Passover*

EXODUS 11:1-13:22



**God delivers with power and by blood.**



*“For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you” (Exod 12:23).*

## Supporting Truths

1. God uses the blood of a spotless lamb to deliver from death.
2. God delivers those who trust in perfect blood shed for them.
3. God uses His great power to deliver from slavery.
4. Those God delivers belong to God.
5. Those who are delivered are to remember and teach that God delivered them.

## Objectives

1. Describe what the Israelites did with the lamb and its blood.
2. Compare the Passover lamb to Jesus, the Lamb of God.
3. Describe how the last plague caused the Egyptians to set Israel free.
4. Explain how God became their leader and required their firstborn to be His.
5. Explain the meaning of the three memorials God gave to Israel.

# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God ordains the Passover • Exodus 11:1–13:16



## Lesson Summary

God used one final plague, the death of the firstborn, to overcome Pharaoh's resistance. However, during the plague, Israel was also in danger, unless they followed God's specific instructions. Each household killed a lamb, brushed its blood around the doorway, and waited inside until God passed over their homes. By His great power and by the blood of spotless lambs, God delivered His people. He also established Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the consecration of the firstborn as reminders of His power to deliver.

## Spotlight on the Gospel

Jesus shared his last supper with the disciples on the night of Passover. During this celebration, Jesus identified the unleavened bread and the cup of wine with His own body and blood. In so doing, Jesus declared that deliverance from sin and from God's wrath comes only through His blood (Matt 26:26–28). Those who come to Jesus are protected by His blood just as the Israelites who stayed inside were protected by the blood of the Passover lamb.

LAST WEEK



God sends plagues  
on Egypt  
Exodus 7:1–10:29

THIS WEEK



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

NEXT WEEK



God parts the Red Sea  
Exodus 14:1–15:21

DELIVERANCE



## Lesson Commentary

### *God delivers with power and by blood.*

God's purpose in the first half of Exodus was to display His power and deliver His people. But after nine powerful plagues, Israel was still enslaved by Egypt. So God sent a tenth and final plague, the most powerful, to **deliver** His people (Exod 11:1). God had chosen Israel to be His firstborn (4:22), and because of this, not because of anything special Israel had done, God *rescued* them. He instructed Israel to make a blood sacrifice to spare them from judgment, and God established Passover as a sign that He delivers with power and by blood.



#### THINK ABOUT IT

When God decides to deliver, there is no power or person that can stand in His way (Col 2:15).

### The LORD planned one last plague to deliver Israel from Egypt (11:1–8; 12:12)

God announced the death of every firstborn male in all of

Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, to the firstborn of the slave, even the firstborn of the livestock (11:4–5). Unlike the previous plagues, God Himself would go through Egypt to accomplish this judgment (11:4). This plague would also be a final judgment on all the gods of Egypt (12:12). The death of the firstborn was a fitting punishment. Since Pharaoh refused to release Israel, whom God had chosen to be His firstborn, God would kill Pharaoh's firstborn (4:22–23). This plague would cause Pharaoh to send his officials to bow before Moses and desperately beg the Israelites to leave (11:8).

### The LORD gave a Passover sacrifice to deliver Israel's firstborn (12:1–13, 21–23)

In order to spare 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 (12:3–6). On the fourteenth of the month, in the evening, they slaughtered the lamb without breaking any of its bones, and then they used hyssop to brush the blood on the sides

and top of the doorway (12:6–7, 22, 46). Then they stayed inside the house until morning (12:22). They roasted the lamb, ate it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, and burnt any leftovers (12:8–10). While eating, they were ready to leave at a moment's notice (12:11). Then when the LORD passed through Egypt, He saw the blood, passed over them, and did not allow the destroyer to enter their houses (12:13, 23).

The Passover pointed forward to Christ our Passover (1 Cor 5:7). The lamb looked forward to the 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 represented 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. The bitter herbs reminded Israel of bitter slavery in Egypt. Israel's deliverance when God saw the blood and passed over them illustrates how God's wrath passes over those covered by the blood of Jesus (Rom 5:9).

Deliverance has always been through the Lamb of God, even for Old Testament saints (Rom 3:24–25). Blood is necessary for sins to be forgiven (Heb 9:22). That is why Abel, Noah, and Abraham all made blood **sacrifices**, killing animals to atone for sin and to please God. But 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). Even the life of a man cannot redeem the life of another (Ps 49:7–9). Only God can redeem from hell (Ps 49:15). So the Passover looks forward to Christ the Passover Lamb, who, as God become man, died to deliver and purify a people for Himself (Titus 2:13–14). Christ confirmed this when He identified the bread and the cup of the Passover meal with His own body and blood (Matt 26:26–28). In remembering deliverance from Egypt, the Passover meal looked forward to Christ. Today, the Lord's

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Supper remembers Christ's final Passover sacrifice (1 Cor 11:24).



## THINK ABOUT IT

While there was great wailing in Egypt during this time, there was peace and tranquility with Israel (11:6).

## The LORD killed the firstborn to deliver Israel from slavery (12:29–41; 13:17–22)

At midnight God struck every firstborn in Egypt (12:29). Loud wailing filled the land, for there was someone dead in every

house (12:30). This horrible night reminds us that although God always provides a way to be saved, those who reject His salvation will be punished (Rom 2:4–5). In their agony, Pharaoh and the Egyptians urged the Israelites to leave immediately (12:31–34), and just as God promised, they gave the Israelites gold and silver jewelry, which would later be used to build God's tabernacle (12:35–36; 38:24–31).

During their 430 years in Egypt (12:40), Israel had grown from 68 to 600,000 men, and there were likely over 2 million people total (12:37). Besides the Israelites, a large crowd of other people went with them (12:38). This was a taste of the promise that all nations would be blessed through Abraham (Gen 12:3).

As Israel departed, God led them with His own presence, appearing in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (12:51; 13:21–22). Moses brought along the bones of Joseph (13:19), a reminder of Joseph's faith that God would deliver Israel (Gen 50:24–25).

## The LORD told Israel to remember forever how He delivered them (12:14–28; 13:1–16)

God delivered Israel with such incredible power so that they would trust Him as their God forever (10:1–2). God gave three rituals to help them remember. First,

the Passover meal reminded them that the LORD had passed over them when He killed the firstborn in Egypt. They were to eat this meal in the evening following the fourteenth day of the first month every year (12:2, 6), and they were to diligently teach their children what it meant (12:26–27).

Second, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was to remind them and their children that the LORD had brought them out of slavery in Egypt (13:8). **Unleavened bread** does not rise because it has no leaven (yeast); it is flat and dense. The ritual began on Passover and continued for one week (12:18). There was to be no leaven in the house (12:15), and on the first and seventh days, there was to be a holy assembly and no work (12:16). It reminded them of the haste of their departure, since they did not even have time to let their dough become leavened (12:34).

Third, they were to set apart every firstborn male as belonging to the LORD (13:1–2). Human firstborn were to be redeemed by an animal sacrifice (13:13). The Israelites were to teach their children what it meant: all the firstborn belonged to God, since He had delivered them (13:15). Also, all Israel belonged to God as His firstborn and as His redeemed people (13:16). Later, God would choose the Levites in the place of the firstborn to serve as His special ministers (Num 3:12–13).

With these three rituals, Israel was to remember how God delivered them from Egypt, and they were to teach their children forever. With great power God had broken the might of Egypt, and with the blood of a spotless lamb God had spared His own firstborn, Israel. They now belonged to God forever, because He had delivered them. So we also may become God's own if we look to His power to deliver us from the power of sin, and if we look to the blood of the Lamb of God to rescue us from God's wrath.

## Lesson Outline

*God delivers with power and by blood.*

### AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



1. God planned the tenth plague to deliver Israel from Egypt (11:1–8).
2. God delivered Israel's firstborn from the plague by the blood of a lamb (12:1–23).
3. God sent the tenth plague to deliver Israel from Egypt (12:29–41).
4. God told Israel to always remember that He delivered them (12:14–28; 13:1–16).

### AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. The LORD planned one last plague to deliver Israel from Egypt (11:1–8).
  - The LORD said the Egyptians would send Israel out after one last plague (11:1–3).
  - The LORD told Pharaoh that every firstborn male would die (11:4–8).
2. The LORD gave a Passover sacrifice to deliver Israel's firstborn (12:1–13, 21–23).
  - Kill a spotless lamb at twilight as a sacrifice (12:3–6).
  - Brush the lamb's blood around the door and stay inside (12:7, 22).
  - Eat the meat with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (12:8).
  - Burn up any leftovers and be ready to leave in a hurry (12:10–11).
  - When the Lord sees the blood, He will pass over that house (12:12–13, 23).
3. The LORD killed the firstborn to deliver Israel from slavery (12:29–41; 13:17–22).
  - The LORD struck every firstborn male, and wailing filled the land (12:29–30).
  - Pharaoh and the Egyptians told the Israelites to leave quickly (12:31–41).
  - The LORD was Israel's leader as they left Egypt (13:17–22).
4. The LORD told Israel to remember forever how He delivered them (12:14–28; 13:1–16).
  - The Passover sacrifice reminded Israel that the LORD passed over their houses (12:24–28).
  - The Feast of Unleavened Bread reminded that the LORD brought them out of slavery (12:14–20; 13:3–10).
  - The consecration of the firstborn reminded that the LORD had delivered the firstborn to be His own (13:1–2, 11–16).



## Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



### Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What was the last plague?**  
All the firstborn would die.
- 2. What did the Israelites do to be protected from the plague?**  
They killed a lamb and put its blood around their doorways.
- 3. What was this called?**  
The Passover. God passed over them when He was judging Egypt.
- 4. Who is the Lamb whose blood protects us from death?**  
Jesus.



### Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. What was the last plague?**  
All the firstborn would die.
- 2. Why did God choose to send one more plague?**  
God wanted to show His great power, defeat Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt, and deliver His people.
- 3. How could someone be protected from the plague?**  
Each household killed a lamb and put its blood around their doorways.
- 4. What happened when the plague came?**  
God passed over the houses of the Israelites when He came to judge.
- 5. What does the Passover sacrifice represent?**  
It represents Jesus Christ's death as the Lamb of God. It shows us that only the blood of a perfect sacrifice can protect sinners from God's wrath.
- 6. What happened after Passover?**  
Pharaoh and the Egyptians told the Israelites to leave right away. They even gave them gold and silver.
- 7. After being delivered from Pharaoh's power, who became their leader?**  
God Himself led them on their way out of Egypt, by fire and cloud.
- 8. What was Israel supposed to do to remember their deliverance?**  
They were supposed to teach their children, using three rituals: the Passover supper, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the consecration of the firstborn.

## Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



### PROTECTION

Use puppets to talk about “protection.” Baby ducks could tell how their moms protect them by swimming near them and scaring off anything that might harm them. The same could be discussed regarding kittens and puppies. Talk about God being our protector and giving us moms and dads to protect us from harm. God protected the Israelites in a special way. In today's lesson, God wanted His people to leave Egypt so that they could worship Him.

### PLAY-DOH CENTER

Make various bread and roll shapes with Play-Doh, and pretend to bake and eat them. Today's Bible lesson tells that when the Israelites were finally allowed to leave Egypt, they took their bread dough with them so they would have food for their long journey.



### DRESSED AND READY

Bring a suitcase and a jacket to class. Bring in various props and pictures (sheep, herbs, branches, etc.). Lay them in front of the suitcase as you teach. Put them in the suitcase one by one as you tell the story. Wear a jacket as you teach today, emphasizing that Moses and all the Israelites needed to be ready to go right when the Lord told them.

### BLOOD ON THE DOOR POSTS

Build a doorframe or miniature house out of Popsicle sticks. During the lesson, apply “blood” (red paint) around the top and sides of the door. Use this model to demonstrate how the firstborn of Israel were protected from the destroyer.



### THE PASSOVER LAMB

**Materials:** Paper plate, cotton balls, crazy eyes, brown and red construction paper, white cardstock, and glue.

**Directions:** Prior to class, cut out rectangles from white cardstock that will serve as legs (4 per student). Create a lamb's head from brown construction paper and its mouth from red construction paper. During class, have the children glue the crazy eyes, nose, and the mouth to the lamb's head. Glue the head onto one edge of the plate and glue cotton onto the rest of the plate. Finish by gluing legs onto the bottom.





# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

## PACKING RELAY

Using two suitcases and a few items to pack inside, let two teams compete to see who can fill a suitcase, empty it, and run back with it for the next person to do the same. Talk about the Israelites getting ready to pack to leave Egypt quickly.

## READY, SET, GO

When the children arrive, tell them that they must be prepared at any moment to leave the classroom together and go to another location to receive a special surprise. Make sure they understand that as soon as the time comes, you will tell them, and they must immediately stop whatever they are doing and line up at the door. Emphasize that when they leave, they need to be quiet and serious as they walk to the new location. Once the time comes, make the announcement and take the children to the predetermined spot.

Once you all have reached the special location, you may reward the children for being prepared, leaving so quickly, and following your instructions.

This is a great activity to teach the children about how the Israelites were “prepared.”



ILLUSTRATE

## UNLEAVENED SNACK

Purchase unleavened bread to use as a visual aid during your lesson. Allow each child to try a piece of the flat bread.

## DESIGNATED DOTS

Pass out colored dot stickers as children walk in the door. Pass out twice as many yellow dots as all other colors combined. Instruct the children with the yellow dots to sit on the right side of the class and children with other colors to sit on the left side. Explain to the class that children on the right represent Israel and children on the left represent Egypt. When you get to Exodus 12:30, tell all the children wearing a particular color dot to lie down on the ground as though they have died. Point out that no one died on the Israelite side during the Passover. After Exodus 12:36, instruct all the Israelites to get up, take the possessions of the Egyptians (Bibles, sweaters, etc.) and leave the classroom. Be sure the possessions are returned to the rightful owners when the children return.

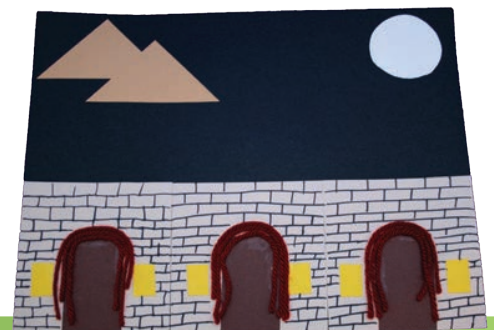


APPLY

## BLOOD ON THE DOORPOSTS

**Materials:** Black, brown, tan, grey, and yellow construction paper, white paper, scarlet yarn, black marker, and glue.

**Directions:** Have children cut three rectangle buildings from grey paper and draw in the bricks with black marker. Cut three doors from brown construction paper and two windows from yellow construction paper and glue onto the buildings as shown below. Glue the scarlet string around the door to symbolize the blood of the lamb on the doorposts. Glue all three buildings, two tan triangles, and one white circle to black construction paper as shown below.



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

**CELEBRATIONS TO REMEMBER**

Using a calendar as a visual aid, talk about the various celebrations we observe during our year. As you talk to the children about their favorite holidays, ask them what their families do to celebrate special times. Perhaps their families do things that their parents did as children. In today's Bible lesson, we will learn about a special event in the history of God's people, an event that Israelites continue to celebrate even today.

**WHO IS THE FIRSTBORN?**

Ask the children who is the firstborn child in each of their homes. Then ask whether any of them are the oldest boys in the room. Have all the firstborns come to the front of the class. Have the rest of the children slide to the left to fill in the empty chairs. Then have all the firstborns sit on the right side of the room. In today's lesson, we will see that all the firstborn boys of the Egyptians are going to have something dreadful happen to them. But the firstborn boys of the Israelites will be passed over.



ILLUSTRATE

**LOOKING FORWARD**

The Passover pointed forward to Christ (1 Cor 5:7). Use the following sword drills to show how different aspects of the Passover looked forward.

**Isa 53:7** The lamb looked forward to the Messiah, who was like a lamb led to slaughter.

**Eph 1:7** The blood of lambs looked forward to the blood of Christ

**Ps 51:7** Hyssop represented purification and cleansing from sin

**Heb 10:29** Need to stay in the house protected by blood illustrates that only those protected by Christ's blood are delivered from hell.

**1 Cor 5:8** Unleavened bread represents how Christians flee impurity and live in sincerity and truth.

**Rom 5:9** Passover illustrates how God's wrath passes over those covered by the blood of Jesus.

**BREAD-BAKING EXPERIMENT**

Before class, use a bread machine to make two kinds of bread. Use the same bread mix for both breads, but do not add the yeast to one of the loaves. Bring both loaves to class, labeling one "Leavened" and the other "Unleavened". Allow the children to taste both breads. Tell the class that both loaves were made using the same machine and identical bread mixes. Use the loaves to illustrate Exodus 12:34.



APPLY

**FOLLOWING ORDERS**

Ask the children what they think would have happened if an Israelite decided he was not going to exactly follow God's orders concerning the Passover. What if he did not want to kill one of his good lambs and instead sacrificed a sick one? Would God have accepted this offering? What would have happened if the lamb was not killed but was simply tied up at the doorstep and offered as a living sacrifice? We can come to God only according to God's will and plan. We cannot save ourselves our own way. Think back to Cain and Abel. Was God pleased with Cain's offering? Noah also had to build the ark exactly as God instructed him, and in the same way, the Israelites had to perform the Passover exactly as God had instructed Moses. Use these questions to discuss the importance of following God's instructions exactly as they are recorded in His word, the Bible.