



Lesson 12:

EASTER: PASSOVER CELEBRATION



TEACHING GOAL: The Passover celebration has significance to our lives today.

1. Play theme song
2. Pray
3. Review last lesson
4. Lesson and discussion
5. Memorize: **The Passover helps us remember; God's protection yesterday, today, and forever.**
6. Close in prayer



SCRIPTURE: Exodus 12:3-13 "Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb...take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses.... On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn.... The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt."

Matthew 26:17-20 "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?''Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, "...I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house."... When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve."



MATERIALS: Matzo crackers, grape juice, candles and stands, matches
Paper plates and cups, napkin, basin of warm water and towel



IN ADVANCE: Set a table for the number of people who will be participating in the Passover Family Time celebration.

Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A Big Idea

We are going to celebrate the Passover. Does anyone know what the Passover is? Put the story of the original Passover in Exodus 12 into your own words. **We celebrate the Passover to remember how God protected the Israelites before he delivered them from slavery in Egypt.**

B Activity

Each year the people of Israel celebrated the Passover, remembering how God protected them from the angel of death. Did you know that Jesus celebrated the Passover too? Put the story of Jesus at the Passover from Matthew 26 into your own words. **The night before he was crucified on the cross, Jesus celebrated the Passover with his friends, the disciples.**

We are going to have an abbreviated Passover celebration, using symbols that remind us of what God did for the people of Israel in Egypt and what God did through Jesus in the New Testament. Every Jew views the Passover as symbolic, with each element reminding of something important. As Christians we also see new meaning in the same elements. Those new reminders are noted as you participate in this Passover.

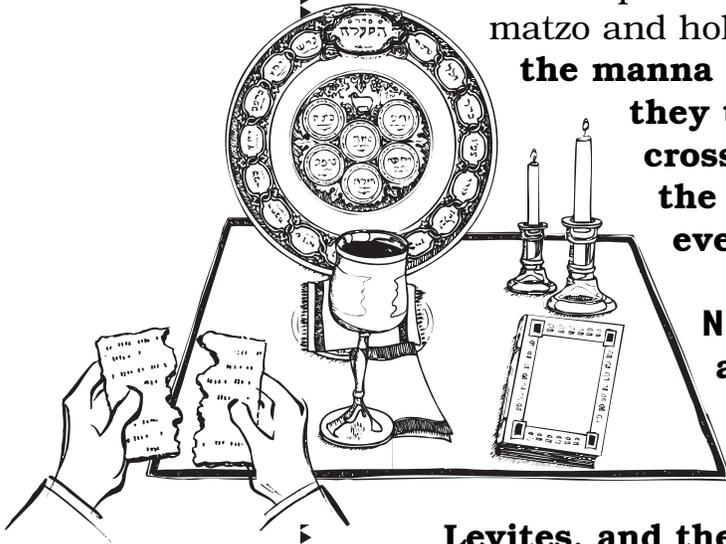
1. Each female lights a candle. **In the Old Testament, the lighting of the candles signaled the start of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, an eight-day party.**

NEW SIGNIFICANCE: As the candles are lit, we remember that the true light, Jesus, led the Passover on the night he was betrayed.

2. Washing the hands. **Ancient regulation requires that hands must be washed before dipping food into any liquid. It reminded people of the importance of purification and coming to God in a clean manner.**

NEW SIGNIFICANCE: During the Last Supper, it may have been at this time that Jesus set aside his garment, took the basin, and washed the disciples' feet. This story is recorded in John 13:4-5.

3. Hold up the matzo. A parent takes three pieces of matzo and holds them up. **The matzo symbolizes the manna that God provided the Israelites as they traveled through the desert after crossing the Red Sea and before entering the Promised Land. God provides for us every day.**



NEW SIGNIFICANCE: Many Jews today are unsure why there are three pieces of matzo. Some say because of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Others say for the priests, the Levites, and the congregation. Because of what happens next, the three pieces of matzo appear to represent the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

4. Breaking the middle matzo. **The broken matzo represents the suffering the people experienced in Egypt.**

NEW SIGNIFICANCE: The broken matzo also represents the suffering that Jesus the Messiah experienced for us. Break the middle matzo. Put the broken piece in a napkin and hide it. Later, teens will go find the missing matzo.

5. The toast. Pour each person a cup of grape juice. **In the Old Testament, the toast was to remember God's promise to redeem them. Redeem means to pay a price. A lamb was sacrificed so that blood could be put over the door to save the life of the oldest child.**

NEW SIGNIFICANCE: In the New Testament, we remember that Jesus' dying on the cross was

the price to redeem us from sin. Jesus took a cup at his last Passover and said, “This cup is my blood, shed for you, for the forgiveness of sin.” Make a toast like, “Praise God.”

6. Prayers of thanks and love. **In the Old Testament, God sent Moses to deliver the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan, the Promised Land.**

NEW SIGNIFICANCE: In the New Testament, God sent his son Jesus to deliver us from our sins so we can live forever in the Promised Land, heaven. Everyone offers a simple one-line prayer thanking God for Jesus, Easter, heaven, etc.

7. Finding the matzo. **It’s now time to look for the matzo.** When the teens find the matzo, they can eat it or turn it in for a special treat. Parents may give them a hint, and if necessary additional hints, until they find the matzo.

NEW SIGNIFICANCE: After Jesus became our Passover lamb and was crucified for us, he was buried. But he didn’t stay in the grave. He rose again. He came back to life and ascended into heaven. He is now preparing a place for us so that we will see him again someday.

Application

The Passover is a special event because it symbolizes the protection and faithfulness of God to Moses and the Israelites. But it has much more significance than that. When Jesus came to earth he was crucified on the Passover weekend. He became our Passover Lamb. We are grateful to him for his special gift so that we can have fellowship with God.