

LESSON 12 OPENING

THE PASSOVER PROMISE—THE PASSOVER

Good morning, boys and girls. This calendar lists some important holidays. What ones do you think are listed? *Accept volunteered responses and find those holidays on the calendar. Then find and point to the Passover holiday. (It is usually in the week before or after Easter.)* Here's one you might miss. It's called Passover. You will learn more about the first Passover in your Bible lesson today.

What special foods does your family enjoy on holidays like Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving? *Accept volunteered responses, such as turkey for Thanksgiving.* Jewish families have always had special foods for Passover. Jesus was a Jew and looked forward to celebrating Passover, especially with His disciples. Among the things they ate was unleavened bread. At the first Passover, God's people also ate roast lamb.

In the time when Jesus lived in Israel, there was a temple in Jerusalem. Animal sacrifice was a religious practice, and before people roasted their lamb, it was killed by priests as a sacrifice to God. It reminded people that they were sinful and deserved death, but that God would accept the lamb in their place. It was a substitute for their own punishment.

Animal sacrifice is not a pleasant image. However, it was a long-standing practice in Bible times, and it was commanded by God. These animal sacrifices pointed God's people to Christ. The Bible doesn't only call Jesus the Good Shepherd. The prophet John the Baptist once pointed at Him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Do you remember when Jesus acted as our sacrificial Lamb? It was on Good Friday. *Find Good Friday on the calendar, and show it to the students.* What happened on that day? *Jesus died on the cross as our substitute, suffering the punishment for our sins.*

The lambs that were sacrificed in the Jewish temple had no choice about it. They were bought by worshipers, and priests killed them. But Jesus, the Son of God, had a choice. He didn't have to sacrifice Himself for us. His Father had a choice too. He loved Jesus. He didn't have to send Him to earth to become a human being and die on a cruel cross. These were hard, hard choices for the Father and the Son to make. Why did they do it? *Read, or have the students speak together, the words of John 3:16.*

Pray: Dear God, we thank You for making the hard choice to send Jesus to suffer and die for us. Jesus, Lamb of God, thank You for making the choice to come. Holy Spirit, fill us with gratitude to God for making these choices out of real love for us sinners. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Exodus 12:1–32

BIBLE TRUTH

God protects us.

FAITH FOCUS

The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar

LAW & GOSPEL

Because I sin, I fear death.

In Christ, the Lamb of God, I look forward to eternal life; I no longer have to fear death.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!
Psalm 20:1

VISUAL HELPS

A calendar that shows when Passover is, a Bible

Lesson 12

The Passover
Exodus 12:1-32

ACTIVITIES

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

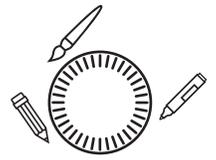
Red Wreath

Cut out the center of paper plates ahead of time. Have children glue red tissue-paper squares to the rim. Add a piece of yarn for hanging. Say, **Our wreath can remind us of the blood of the lamb God's people painted around their doors to protect those inside. The red also reminds us of Jesus' blood shed on the cross to pay for our sins and protect us from eternal death.**



Family Feast

Provide students with plain paper plates and art supplies, including markers, crayons, or colored pencils. Have students draw their favorite special meal (such as they might eat on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or their birthday) on their plates. Allow students to share their plates with the group.



Passover Snack

Serve matzo or saltine crackers and grape juice. Say, **God's people were in a hurry to leave, so there wasn't time to make fluffy bread. It was unleavened. That means there was no yeast in it to make it rise. They drank wine. Our juice is not wine, but it is made from grapes just like wine is. Our snack reminds us of the Passover food. What else does it remind us of?** Talk about the Lord's Supper.



Suitcase Game

Bring a small suitcase. Say, **I'm going on a trip. I'm going to [name a place]. Jesus is with me when I go to [name of place].** Pass the suitcase to a child and have child think of a place to go. Then have that child pass to the next one. Each child says the place you named and the places named by other children before them. Use the game to reinforce that Jesus is with us wherever we go and watches over us.



THE PASSOVER PROMISE—THE PASSOVER

Unit 4, Lesson 12

Our Passover

What happened at the Passover in Egypt is connected to what Jesus did for us on the cross as our Savior and to what Christians celebrate at the Lord's Supper.

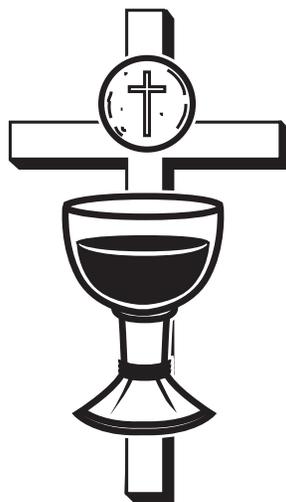
Directions: Write the letter of the corresponding event from Column 2 to its matching Passover event in Column 1.

Column 1

1. Every household of the people of Israel was to sacrifice a lamb that had no blemish. _____
2. Every household of the people of Israel was to paint some of the lamb's blood on the doorposts and over the tops of the doorposts (lintels) of their homes. This blood was a sign to God's angel not to kill the firstborn male inside the house. _____
3. After they painted the doorposts and lintel, God's people were to roast the lamb's meat and eat it along with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. _____
4. God commanded His people that in the future, the Passover was to be celebrated as a feast to the Lord. _____
5. Whenever the Passover feast was celebrated, the people of Israel were to remember how God rescued them from the slavery they had experienced in Egypt. _____

Column 2

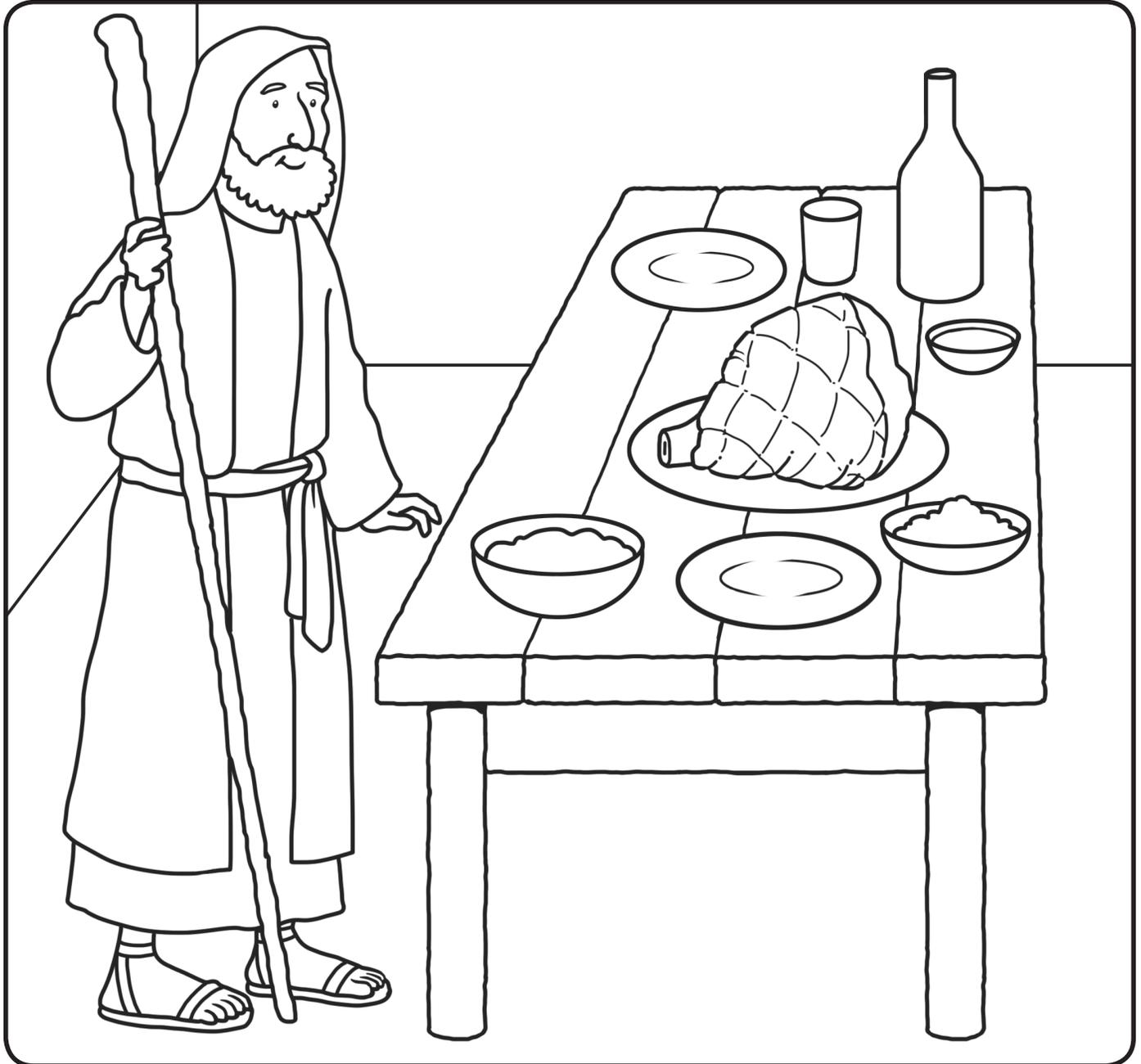
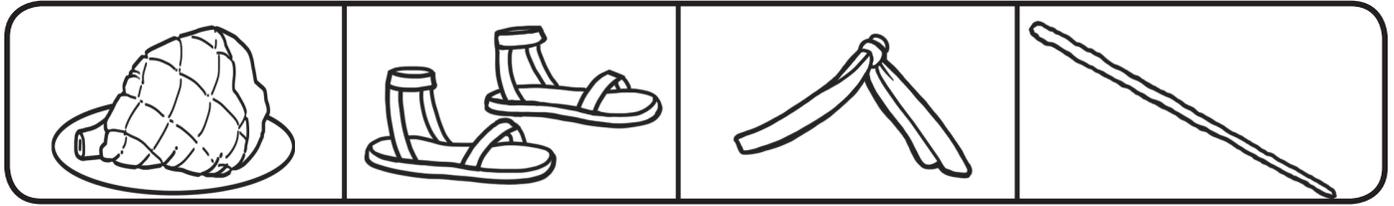
- A. The blood of Jesus shed on the cross rescues us from the eternal death we deserve for our sins.
- B. When people receive the Lord's Supper, they remember and rejoice that Jesus' death rescued us from the slavery of sin.
- C. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was without sin.
- D. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His true body and blood in, with, and under the consecrated bread and wine.
- E. Holy Communion is a celebration feast for Christians when we remember that Jesus has rescued us from eternal death and gives us forgiveness of sins and eternal life through faith in Him.



Lesson 12:

Exodus 12:1-32

The Passover Promise - The Passover



Find & Color

When it was time to leave Egypt, God wanted the people to be ready. Look at the top of the page. Find the items there hidden in the big picture. Find what the people were to wear, eat, and hold. I wonder . . . how would God lead them? Where would they go?



[The LORD] passed over the houses of the people of Israel.

Exodus 12:27