

Living the Word:

Teaching Youth God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 3

The Promises of Passover

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

Lesson #3-4

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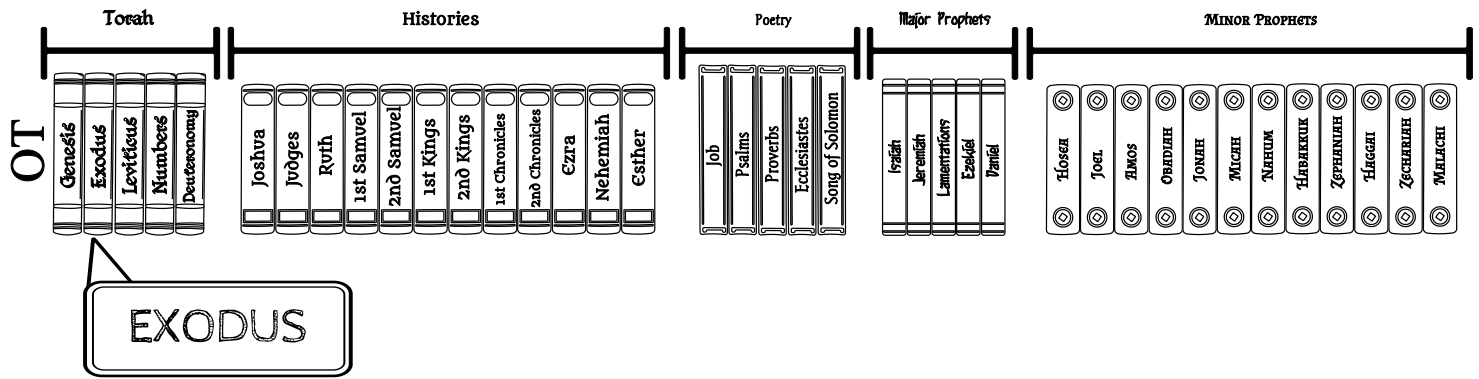
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The Promises of Passover

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

How would you prepare to leave home in a hurry? Today God gives the Israelites some traveling instructions.

Story Connections

Last week Joseph helped his family and the people of Egypt during a famine. Hundreds of years passed and Joseph's descendants became numerous in Egypt and were enslaved by the Pharaoh. When they cried out, God came to their rescue. This week we hear how God called the Israelites to remember their deliverance from Egypt.

Story Summary

To prepare for their liberation from slavery (the Exodus from Egypt), the Israelites were given instructions. They were to slaughter a lamb and mark their doorposts with its blood. This would signal the Lord to pass over

their homes the night of the plague. The Israelites were to prepare the lamb with bitter herbs and unleavened bread—since they would be leaving in a hurry, there was no time to wait for the bread to rise.

Lesson @ A Glance

#3-4: The Promises of Passover
Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

The Point: Our God works in history and gives us unique ways to remember and celebrate God's deliverance.

Making Connections: Promises Made, Promises Broken

Spiritual Practice Emphasis: Worship

Bible Nuts and Bolts: The Exodus Story



Moses then gave instructions on how God's people should remember their deliverance at the start of each Hebrew year: a week-long festival called Passover, where a feast of unleavened bread helps them remember their deliverance by God's hand.

Remembering and reenacting what their promise-keeping God did for them becomes a huge part of their identity as God's

people. This remembrance is not just for the Israelites who were present on that first night, but for all generations to come.

The Point

Our God works in history and gives us unique ways to remember and celebrate God's deliverance. Remembering God's saving work through rituals, celebrations, and stories helps us show God our thankfulness and helps us share the story of God's redemption with others.

Bible Nuts & Bolts

The Exodus story is the central event by which the people of God knew themselves to be God's people, the event to which they looked back to understand God's saving activity in their lives. Just as the people of Israel looked back on the night of Passover, so the rest of the Bible—including the New Testament—looks back on it, too. At the Last Supper, Jesus looked back to

Moses said to the people,
“Remember this day on
which you came out of
Egypt, out of the house of
slavery, because the Lord
brought you out from
there by strength of hand;
no leavened bread shall be
eaten.”
Exodus 13:3

the Exodus story and showed how his approaching death on the cross would be God's great work of deliverance in the life of God's people.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

Like the Israelites from today's story who were given instructions on how to remember their liberation from slavery, during worship we remember our own salvation from sin and death through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

For Your Reflection:

1. *What is a family story that gets told and retold year after year?*
2. *In what ways are the Jewish celebration of Passover and the Christian celebration of Holy Communion similar?*
3. *How might the understanding of the Exodus by someone who was present at the time differ than someone who was born generations after?*

Overview, Objectives, and Materials You'll Need

Core Elements

Short on time?
Items marked +
can be adjusted to be done with
what you probably already
have in your pocket or
classroom.

Into the Story

10 min.

It is Time to Pack

Choose what to pack if you had to leave home in a hurry.

- › Backpack or duffle bag
- › Travel essentials (water bottle, snacks, phone and charger, change of clothes, etc.)

+Learning the Story 15 min.

Basic Instructions Before Leaving Egypt

Identify God's instructions to the Israelites.

- › Bibles
- › Markers
- › Poster paper

Living the Story

15 min.

Keeping the Feast

Sample Passover foods and reflect on their meaning.

- › Matzah
- › Parsley or celery leaves
- › Salted water
- › Plates
- › Cups

Sending the Story

5 min.

- › Bibles

Extending the Learning:

Hands On <i>Taste and Remember</i> <i>Make charoset, a food that helps people remember the Passover story.</i>	10 min.	› Activity Sheet #3-4.A › Apples › Walnuts › Cinnamon › Sugar › Honey › Sweet red wine › Bowls › Spoons
+Mixed Media <i>Passover à la Les Misérables</i> <i>Watch a video of the Passover story told through songs from the musical “Les Misérables.”</i>	10 min.	› Video player
+The Competitive Edge <i>Total Recall</i> <i>Play a game involving memory.</i>	15 min.	› Large tray › Small household items › Towel › Paper › Pens or pencils
+Simply Serving <i>Let My People Go</i> <i>Learn about modern-day slavery and prepare an advocacy event.</i>	30 min.	› Internet-connected devices
+Worship Connection <i>Extending the Fellowship of Communion</i> <i>Plan and host a fellowship time after a service with communion.</i>	15 min.	› None

Into the Story:

It is Time to Pack (10 minutes)

Choose what to pack if you had to leave home in a hurry.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Gather supplies, pack the travel items into the backpack or duffle bag.

Supplies:

- › Backpack or duffle bag
- › Travel essentials (water bottle, snacks, phone and charger, change of clothes, etc.)

DURING CLASS:

1. **If you had to leave home in a hurry for an undetermined amount of time and could only pack a small bag, what would you take?** Give students a few minutes to brainstorm, ask questions, and name some items.
2. After students have shared, open the bag you have prepared and pass around the items you packed. Ask the following questions about the items provided as well as items students mentioned: **What purpose do these items serve? Why would you want these items over other things?**
3. **Part of today's story is about how the Israelites had to prepare to leave the land they had lived in for hundreds of years in just one night. In their case, they were leaving that home for what they hoped would be forever.**

Learning the Story:

Basic Instructions Before Leaving Egypt (15 minutes)

Identify God's instructions to the Israelites.

DURING CLASS:

1. **Our story today contains two sets of instructions. The first set is God instructing the Israelites on how to prepare to leave Egypt. The second set is God, through Moses, instructing the Israelites how to remember being freed from slavery in Egypt. Let's break these passages up and take a closer look.**
2. Divide students into two groups. Assign one group Exodus 12:1-13 and the other Exodus 13:1-8. Pass out markers and poster paper: **As a group, read through your passage. Have a volunteer write down all of the instructions on the poster paper. Choose another volunteer to share the instructions with the whole group when we come back together.**
3. Give groups 5-10 minutes to read, write, and prepare. Bring them back together and invite volunteers to share the instructions from their passage, first presenting Exodus 12:1-13 and then Exodus 13:1-8.
4. Ask each group why they think God gave the instructions God did. *[For example, it would have taken too long to wait for bread made with yeast—"leavened" bread—to rise, therefore they were to prepare and eat "unleavened" bread—bread with no yeast.]*
5. **What are the similarities between the two sets of instructions?** *[They both contain instructions about how to prepare and eat a meal; both involve unleavened bread; both involve honoring God.]*

Supplies:

- › Bibles
- › Markers
- › Poster paper

Living the Story:

Keeping the Feast (15-20 minutes)

Sample Passover foods and reflect on their meaning.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Prepare trays of matzah crackers and parsley and small cups of salted water.
2. Always check for allergies before serving any food.

Supplies:

- › Matzah
- › Parsley or celery leaves
- › Salted water
- › Plates
- › Cups

DURING CLASS:

1. **As a culture, or in your own family, what are some of our biggest celebrations?**
[Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Fourth of July, etc.] What is a common activity for each of these holidays? [A meal.] Think about Thanksgiving. What goes into the planning and preparation for that meal? What are some typical foods? [Accept all answers.] Thanksgiving is one of our nation's biggest holidays and may be one of the biggest meals of the year. Maybe you look forward to indulging in the foods that only get served once a year! The Festival of Unleavened Bread, also called Passover, is one of the most important—if not the most important—holidays in the Jewish year, and like we have seen, it involves planning, preparation, and very specific foods.
2. Pass around the matzah crackers, parsley, and salted water and invite students to taste the foods. Parsley or celery leaves should be dipped in the salted water before eating.
3. **Why was unleavened bread so important for the Israelites on the first night of Passover?**
Recall your previous conversation from Learning the Story when you talked about the hurriedness of the night and how the Israelites would not have time to wait for the bread to rise. Why do you think God instructed the Israelites to remember the Passover by eating unleavened bread every year?
4. **The parsley/celery leaves are bitter, and the water is salty. Why do you think these were included in the Passover meal? What might they represent?** *[The bitter herbs and salt water represent the suffering and tears of the Israelites enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years.]*
5. **When is another time in the Bible where Passover is celebrated?** *[The Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples, Luke 22:7-13.] How is our celebration of Holy Communion, which was instituted at the Last Supper, similar to the Jewish festival of Passover, which was instituted on that first night of Passover? [Both involve remembering our deliverance by the one, true God; both involve following instructions given by God both involve a meal.]*

6. **When we celebrate Holy Communion we, too, remember Christ and his sacrifice for us. In fact, it is right there in Jesus' instructions: "do this, in remembrance of me."** Close this activity with a post-communion prayer used in your congregation or this post-communion prayer from *The Book of Common Prayer* (The Episcopal Church):

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

© 2007 *The Book of Common Prayer*

Hands On: Taste and Remember (10 minutes.)

Make charoset, a food that helps people remember the Passover story.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Read through the recipe for charoset on Activity Sheet #3-4.A
2. Prepare the apples and walnuts.
3. Assemble the workspace and ingredients needed to prepare the charoset.
4. Always check with students for allergies before serving any food.

DURING CLASS:

1. **Charoset is a traditional Passover food that recalls the mortar of the bricks the Israelites made when they were slaves in Egypt. It is a mixture of fruit, nuts, and honey. We are going to make our own charoset today!**
2. Divide up tasks from Activity Sheet #3-4.A. When the charoset is ready to eat, divide into bowls, distribute spoons, and enjoy! (Snack on the charoset while watching and talking about the video from Mixed Media activity.)

Supplies:

- › Activity Sheet #3-4.A
- › Apples
- › Walnuts
- › Cinnamon
- › Sugar
- › Honey
- › Sweet red wine
- › Bowls
- › Spoons

Mixed Media:

Passover à la Les Misérables (10 minutes.)

Watch a video of the Passover story told through songs from the musical “Les Miserables.”

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Cue up the video clip found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmthKpnTHYQ> (The clip is titled “The Maccabeats – Les Miserables - Passover” and is posted by MaccabeatsVideo).

Supplies

› Video player

DURING CLASS:

1. **Has anyone heard of the singing group The Maccabeats? They are a Jewish a cappella group. Many of their songs tell of Jewish customs, celebrations, and holidays, including Passover. Here is a video they made using songs from a popular musical to tell the story of Passover.**
2. Play the video.
3. After the video, ask youth if they recognized any “characters” from the Passover story. [*Moses, Pharaoh, etc.*] You may wish to play it again.
4. **What did you think of the video? Do you think this is a good way to teach people the Passover story? Why or why not? If so, what about this video is effective at getting their message across? What message do you think they are trying to share?**

The Competitive Edge:

Total Recall (20 minutes.)

Play a game involving memory.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Gather at least two dozen small household items (paper clip, spoon, comb, etc.) Place half of the items on the tray and cover with a towel.

DURING CLASS:

1. **Remembering is a very important part of today's lesson!**
We have seen that there are all kinds of ways that we can involve our senses in remembering the important stories of God's activity in our lives. For this activity we are going to play a game of "Memory."
2. Bring out the tray—make sure it stays covered! **Under this towel there are a number of items. In pairs I will invite you up and reveal the tray for only ten seconds. In that time it is your job to remember how many items there are, what the items are, and where they are. You will then write down what you remember on your paper. After everyone has had a chance to view the tray, we will compare notes and see who remembered the *most accurately!***
3. Pass out paper and pens or pencils to each pair. Invite students to view the tray in pairs or in groups of three (how ever many people can view the tray clearly at one time). Remember to allow only ten seconds per view!
4. After the group compares notes, ask what made it difficult to remember all of the things and where they were located. Was anything easy? **With only ten seconds and things to remember, it can be a lot for one person to remember.** Brainstorm ways the group could work together to remember. *[One person could be in charge of counting, another person remembering what the items are, and another where the items are located. Or the group could divide up the tray into quadrants and only identity the items in their assigned area.]*
5. If the group would like to try again while using strategies they brainstormed from step four, switch out the original 12 items for new items.

Supplies:

- › Large tray
- › Towel or cloth (large enough to cover the tray)
- › Small household items
- › Paper
- › Pens or pencils

Simply Serving:

Let My People Go (30 minutes.)

Learn about modern-day slavery and plan an advocacy event.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Visit www.ijm.org to learn about the International Justice Mission.

Supplies

› Internet-connected devices

DURING CLASS:

1. **Our story today tells us about the Israelites' response to their deliverance from slavery. The past filled with the heartbreaking stories of people held in slavery, and unfortunately slavery is a part of the present, too. The International Justice Mission is an organization that is fighting to end modern-day slavery. I am going to give you the chance to do a little research of your own into this organization. If you have a smart phone, bring it out!**
2. Pair up students and make sure there is a smart phone, tablet, or computer for each pair. Instruct pairs to search for the "International Justice Mission" on their devices. They can visit the website or they can visit the IJM Facebook page. Assign pairs to find the following information (one per pair – you can double up as needed): (1) What the organization does, (2) how they do it, (3) who is involved, (4) how volunteers—people like us—can help, and (5) one upcoming event or initiative.
3. Give pairs 10 minutes to research. Afterwards, bring pairs back and have them share with others what they learned.
4. **How can we, as a group, support the International Justice Mission here at church?**
Brainstorm possible advocacy campaigns: posters, bulletin announcements, a door offering collection, an informational display table, etc. Pick one option. Make a plan to execute this option in your congregation!

Worship Connection:

Extending the Fellowship of Communion (15 minutes.)

Plan and host a fellowship time following a service with communion.

Supplies

> None

DURING CLASS:

1. **One of the powerful aspects of communion is how it binds the community together in remembrance and builds up our fellowship with one another. We can extend that time of fellowship by planning and hosting a special time of fellowship following a communion service. As a group, we are going to plan a special fellowship time for congregation members following one of our worship services that includes communion. As we plan, let's think about how we can share what we have experienced today with our congregation.**
2. Have students plan a special reception to be held after a worship service that includes communion. Make sure students think about the following elements:
 - What kind of refreshments will you serve? (Consider serving traditional Seder meal foods!)
 - Will there be children? What is an activity you can provide for young kids? (Visit <http://www.mykidsadventures.com/passover-activities/> to discover fun activities for children that teach them about Passover.)
 - How will you publicize the reception?
3. Make sure to plan with the appropriate leaders in your congregation (pastors, ministry leaders, etc.) and find a date that works with your congregation's calendar.

Sending the Story (5 minutes.)

The story of the deliverance of God's people from slavery in Egypt is the central story of the Old Testament. It was such an important event in the lives of God's people that God called them to remember it regularly and to pass on the story to their children. The people whom God led out of slavery were the heirs of the promise to Abraham, and we are also heirs of this promise. We have so much to be thankful for as we look back on God's deliverance in the story of the Exodus and in the story of Jesus.

Supplies

> Bibles

To close our time together today let's join together in a responsive reading of Psalm 118. It is a psalm traditionally associated with Passover and is included in the Passover celebration. One suggestion is to have girls read the odd verses and boys read the even verses. Another option would be to have a leader read the odd verses and the rest of the group read the even verses. You could also have the entire group open by reading verse one collectively, and finish with another collective reading of verse 29.

Remember to send "The Story @ Home" take home sheet with students before dismissing them

Taste and Remember

Make charoset, a food that helps people remember the Passover story.

Charoset ingredients:

- 6 apples peeled, cored and finely chopped (prepare before class)
- 1 cup finely chopped walnuts (prepare before class)
- (Substitute 1 cup of chopped dates for walnuts to make a nut-free charoset)
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 3½ teaspoons honey
- ⅓ cup sweet red wine

This recipe makes six servings. For larger groups, prepare to double or triple the batch as needed.

Preparation:

1. Combine the apples and walnuts (already prepared) in a large bowl.
2. In separate bowl mix the cinnamon and sugar; sprinkle over the apples and walnuts.
3. Stir in the honey and sweet wine.
4. Serve!

The Promises of Passover

The Story @ Home + Youth #3-4

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8



The Point

Our God works in history and gives us unique ways to remember and celebrate God's deliverance. Today's story is important because our lives today are incredibly busy. Some days our schedules are packed with activities, events, and tasks from the moment we wake up until the moment we fall asleep. Taking time to stop to remember that we are saved by grace through Christ is important, and just like the Israelites, we have been given instructions by God to do this!

Story Connections

Last week Joseph helped his family and the land of Egypt during a famine. Hundreds of years passed and Joseph's descendants became numerous in Egypt. They also became slaves to Pharaoh. When they cried out, once again the faithful God came to their rescue. This week we will hear how God called the Israelites to remember their deliverance from Egypt.

Story Summary:

The Promises of Passover

To prepare for their liberation from slavery (the Exodus from Egypt), the Israelites were given instructions. They were to slaughter a lamb and mark their doorposts with its blood. This would

signal the Lord to pass over their homes the night of the plague. The Israelites were to prepare the lamb with bitter herbs and unleavened bread—since they would be leaving in a hurry, there was no time to wait for the bread to rise. Moses then gave instructions on how God's people should remember their deliverance at the start of each Hebrew year: a week-long festival called Passover, a feast of unleavened bread helps them remember their deliverance by God's hand. Remembering and reenacting what their promise-keeping God did for them becomes a huge part of their identity as God's people. This remembrance is not just for the Israelites who were present on that first night, but for all generations to come.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

Like the Israelites from today's story who were given instructions on how to remember their liberation from slavery, during worship we remember our own salvation from sin and death through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This week read the story of the Last Supper (Luke 22:7-23) together as a family and talk about how communion helps us remember Christ's sacrifice for us.

Last Week/Next Week

Last week, we heard about how the Israelites came to be settled in Egypt—through Joseph, who saved his family from the famine and enabled them to resettle in Egypt. This week we hear about God's promise to save the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Next week we hear about the Israelites' journey out of Egypt toward the Promised Land as they travel through the wilderness.

Bible Nuts and Bolts: *The Exodus Story*

The Exodus story became the central event by which the people of God knew themselves to be God's people, the event to which they looked back to understand God's saving activity in their lives. Just as the Israelites looked back on that night, so the rest of the Bible—including the New Testament—looks back on it, too. At the Last Supper, Jesus looked back to the Exodus story and showed how his approaching death on the cross would be God's great work of deliverance in the life of God's people.

Going Deeper

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- ✚ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- ✚ Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- ✚ Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- ✚ End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

Note: This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday - Read Genesis 21:1-7

God gives the Israelites instructions on how to prepare and remember their exodus from Egypt.

- If you were leaving home and did not know when, or if, you would return, how would you prepare?
- What is something you do (a ritual, a prayer?) that reminds you of your salvation through Jesus?

Monday - Read Exodus 13:17-22

God leads the Israelites out of Egypt with a cloud and a pillar of fire.

- Has there been a time you did not know where you were going and had to trust someone to lead you?
- How do you think the Israelites felt leaving their homes, not knowing where they were going?

Tuesday - Read Exodus 14:5-25

When the Egyptian army tries to capture the Israelites, God leads the Israelites to safety.

- Have you ever changed your mind about something big? What was it?
- When is a time when you had to trust that God would provide, even when it seemed impossible?

Wednesday - Read Exodus 16:1-8

When the Israelites become hungry and restless God provides manna for them to eat.

- When is a time that God provided for you in a time of need?
- Why do you think God told the Israelites to only gather what they needed to eat for each day?

Thursday - Read Exodus 19:1-9, 20-25

Moses receives instructions on how the Israelites should live as God's chosen people.

- Since the whole earth and all people were God's, why were the Israelites God's chosen people?
- As Christians, what are some things God calls us to do?

Friday - Read Exodus 20:1-17

The Ten Commandments contain instructions on how to live in right relationship with God and others.

- What is a commandment you struggle with?
- What is a commandment that comes naturally to you?

Saturday - Read Exodus 24:9-18

Moses goes to a mountaintop to be in God's presence and receive the tablets with the commandments.

- Have you ever had a "mountaintop" experience where you felt God's presence? When?
- Why do you think only certain people could see God? Why were Moses and Joshua the only ones invited to the top of the mountain?