

Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread

This is an overly simplified lesson for younger children. For more information, including scriptures that support the text, please see the versions of this lesson for older children.

A long time ago, before the very first Passover, God's people - the Israelites - were living in Egypt. But they were slaves! And they were VERY sad. They cried out to God to save them and He heard their prayer. He sent a man named Moses to rescue them.

God told Moses to ask Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, to let the Israelites go. But Pharaoh said, "NO"! Then he made the people work harder! So God told Moses to give Pharaoh this warning. "I will send terrible plagues on you if you don't let my people go!" But Pharaoh didn't listen. So God sent horrible plagues on the Egyptians. And Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go!

So God decided to send one last plague on Egypt. It would be the worst plague of all! On the night of Passover, it would kill all of the firstborn children. It would kill all of the firstborn animals. But the Israelites would be protected if they followed God's instructions. They had to kill a Passover lamb and put some of its blood on the doorposts of their houses.

The Israelites did what God told them to do and they were protected. But the Egyptians weren't protected. All of their firstborn children died. All of their firstborn animals died. EVEN Pharaoh's firstborn son died! And that's when Pharaoh finally changed his mind! He sent a message to Moses and told him to take the Israelites and GO!

After that, God told the Israelites to keep the Passover every year. He wanted them to remember how He had saved them from death. He wanted them to tell their children all about it. So they

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did. But the Israelites didn't know what we know today. They didn't know that the Passover is a picture of the first step in God's GREAT plan for mankind. It pictures the time when Jesus, God's Son, died to save us all from death!

Jesus Saves Us

Jesus is our Saviour. He is our Passover Lamb. He came to this earth to die for us. And He died for us because we sin! We break God's Law and do things that are wrong. So Jesus died for us so our sins can be forgiven.

But Jesus didn't stay dead. God brought Him back to life again! And now Jesus is a Spirit Being, not a human being. And Spirit Beings live forever! This is the most wonderful thing that has ever happened. And it is also part of God's Plan for us! Because Jesus lives forever, we can live forever too!

Right after the Passover are the Days of Unleavened Bread. These days teach us that God wants us to live His Way of Life. He doesn't want us to sin - to break His Law and do things that are wrong. During the Days of Unleavened Bread, we put leaven¹ out of our homes to remind us to put sin² out of our lives!

God tells us to keep the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread forever. That's because they teach us about the important part Jesus played in God's Plan. You see, it's because of Jesus, and what He did for us, that God's Plan³ can come true! And when it does, we'll all be able to live in God's Family for ever and ever!!

¹ Bread, cake, cookies, etc - anything containing a leavening agent (yeast, baking soda, baking powder) to make it rise.

² Leaven is used as a type of sin in the Bible (among other things) - see 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, for example.

³ God is creating a "family" and His Plan is to make us part of that family. For more information, see "The Holy Days and God's Plan" lesson in this series.