

Exodus 12:31-13:22

"Passed Over" for a Purpose

Scripture: Exodus 12:31-13:22

Memory Verse: Luke 22:19 *"He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'"*

Lesson Focus: As the children of Israel are set free from Egypt we will see that it was for a purpose: that they would become God's people ready to follow Him and serve Him. We will stress that it is no different for the Christian who has been rescued from sin and how Jesus established Communion to help the Christian remember this!

Activities and Crafts: Communion activity sheet and Bring it Home Discussion.
Activity for 1st and 2nd Graders: Pop-up Last Supper Craft

Starter Activity: Holiday Trivia

Consider starting off the lesson by talking about holidays. First have some discussion about what holidays are and talk about some examples. (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in some items from home that represent some of these holidays!) *

Q: What are some examples of holidays? A: Christmas, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, etc.

Q: What is your favorite holiday and why?

In our culture we have lots of holidays! Some of them are significant and observed by everyone, but others are a little silly. See if you can identify some of these sillier ones:

May 4th: (Star Wars Day, "May the 4th be with you")

March 14th: (Pi Day) *

Most holidays are designed to have people remember a specific person or event.

Q: What do we remember at Christmas? A: Jesus's birth!

Q: What do we remember at Easter? A: Jesus's death and resurrection!

Q: What do we remember at 4th of July? A: American freedom from British rule.

In the book of Exodus we saw God institute a special holiday for the children of Israel called "Passover".

Q: What big event was this designed to have the people remember? A: How He rescued them from slavery in Egypt and "passed over" their sins! They are set free now and as we continue the story, we're not only going to get a lot more detail about this holiday but see that God rescued them for a particular purpose. Let's take a look!

Bible Study:

Exodus 12:31-32: After the tenth and final plague, Pharaoh finally admitted defeat and sets the children of Israel free. But notice what they are set free for: to SERVE the Lord! God is their new King and they are His people. They are set free for a purpose! *

Exodus 12:33-36: Even the Egyptian people urged them to go quickly, and it appears that they were willing to do anything to hasten their departure, even giving them their treasures to take with them! So, the children of Israel are not leaving empty-handed!

Exodus 12:37-39: It is hard to imagine these many people all leaving together and so quickly! Think of a packed football stadium which has about sixty to seventy thousand people. This is TEN times that many people (not including women and children) as well as their farm animals. (**Teachers:** Consider playing a quick game that requires the entire group of kids to get from one side of the room to the other in an orderly fashion behind a leader that you will call "Moses") *

Exodus 12:40: 430 years have passed since the beginning of the story of Exodus where there were a measly 70 people among the family of Israel in Egypt. Now there are easily over a million! God has certainly blessed and multiplied them just as He had promised!

Exodus 12:41-42: This is a revolutionary day for the children of Israel that they were never, ever to forget! One way that they were to remember this was to make the Passover meal a special holiday that they were to celebrate every year which the rest of this chapter details. (**Teachers:** Consider summarizing the rest of ch. 12 and moving on to ch. 13)

Exodus 13:1-2: God has some more special instructions for His rescued people.

Q: What does God say about the firstborns? A: "They are MINE!" * Notice again that the children of Israel have been set free for a purpose: to SERVE the Lord. One of the ways they will do this is by consecrating or "setting apart" their firstborn to the Lord for service. This is striking considering what just happened in Egypt.

Q: What just happened to the Egyptian firstborn? A: They were taken by the plague!

Q: And how was the firstborn of the children of Israel spared? A: The blood of the lamb that smeared around their doorways caused the plague to "pass over" them. *

Exodus 13:3: Again, the people are charged to remember what God had done for them, rescuing them from bondage by His awesome power. Another way they will remember is by observing another holiday along with the Passover called the feast of Unleavened Bread.

Q: Who knows what leaven is? A: Leaven is what makes bread fluffy and so wonderful!

(**Teachers:** Consider bringing in some samples of unleavened and leavened bread to share with the kids though be very careful of gluten allergies!) *

Exodus 13:4-7: This eating of unleavened bread was to continue for seven days! But let's pause for a second here. This is all a little weird, isn't it? Eating boring bread for seven days as well as a lamb with bitter herbs according to the Passover instructions is just a little odd. Why would God give them such strange instructions? Let's keep reading!

Exodus 13:8-10: So that they would NEVER forget who He is and what He did for them! * Parents and children participated together in these holiday feasts. Eating the unleavened bread would help them remember how quickly they left Egypt as there was no time to let the leaven do its work to raise the bread. Eating the lamb would help them remember how God "passed over" their houses but not the houses of the Egyptians.

It would help them remember that they were rescued for a purpose, to be God's people, set apart for His glory. But as they celebrated these feasts each year looking back to what God did, they also pointed forward to what God was still yet to do: bless and rescue the whole world according to His promise (**Genesis 12:3**)! This was fulfilled in Jesus Christ who came from the people of Israel to rescue from bondage to sin and death all who believe in Him!

Luke 22:19-20: In fact, it was during the feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread (~1500 years later) that Jesus died on the cross to save people from their sins. But before He did this, He gave believers another practice * to remember Him by. We call this taking of the bread and the drinking of the cup together "communion". (**Teachers:** Let me know if you would like an RMC communion sample with which to demonstrate eating the bread and drinking the cup for the kids) * Q: What do believers remember when they take communion? A: The broken bread reminds us of Jesus' broken body on the cross for our sins
A: The wine or juice reminds us of Jesus's blood that was shed for our sins
A: We remember how much it cost God to "pass over" our own sins!
A: We remember how much God loves us that He would send His only Son to rescue us!

The Bible is clear that communion is ONLY for believers in Jesus. If that is you, talk to your parents about whether you are ready to receive communion! *

Exodus 13:17-18: The children of Israel now make their way out of Egypt with a fresh understanding that they were rescued for a purpose. They are God's people now!

Exodus 13:19: 430 years earlier Joseph had made the people promise to bury him not in Egypt but in the land that God had promised to bring them to. So, Moses and the people honor that ancient request!

Exodus 13:20-22: The people leave Egypt, but not without a purpose or direction!

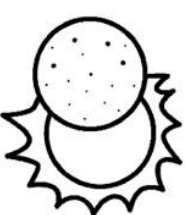
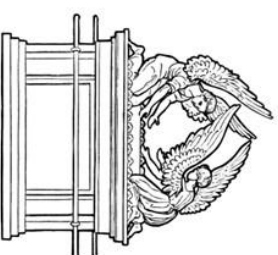
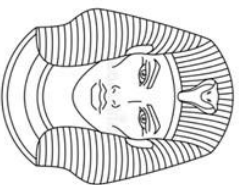
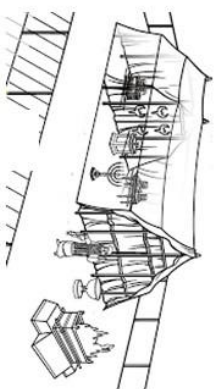
Q: Who is leading them? A: God Himself! They are God's people now. Rescued from bondage, called out of darkness, and into fellowship and relationship with God Himself.

Key Point: If you are a believer in Jesus, you also have been set free for a purpose. God hasn't rescued you so that now you can just do whatever YOU want. Rather, God has "passed over" your sins so that you can now follow Him, as the beloved child of God! * This is what it means to be a disciple, or a follower of Jesus.

Q: What are some ways that you can follow Him this week? A: Honor your parents, be a peacemaker in your home, speak truth and not lies, be kind to others, etc. Remember you do these things not to EARN rescue, but because by faith you ARE a rescued, child of God! *

If you are not a believer in Jesus, God wants to rescue you today! Your sin separates you from God and only through trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus, can you be saved. Come and believe in Jesus today and become part of the family of God!

Bring It Home



ראשית First

Read Exodus 12:31

For what purpose
were the children of
Israel rescued for?

For what purpose
are Christians res-
cued? (2 Cor. 5:15)

שנייה Second

Read Luke 22:19

Why do Christians
take communion?

Have you taken com-
munion before? Why
or why not?

Parent Challenge:

Read Exodus 13:7-8 and v. 14. What was the
responsibility of the parents?

