

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 8 • Week 2

THE PASSOVER

OBJECTIVE:

To tell about Passover and its meaning and to show how much Jesus cared for us by giving His life for us.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Supplies: A basin (like that used for the footwashing ceremony)

A towel

Some unleavened bread or matzos

Grape juice

Small glasses or clear plastic cups

Say: Passover is a very important event that the members of God's Church (who have made a lifetime commitment to Him at baptism) observe once each year.

Today, we'll talk about what takes place when your parents attend the Passover.

One of the first things your parents do is something that Jesus taught His followers to do on the very last Passover before He died.

Ask: Does anybody know what that was?

Say: Here's a hint.

Do: Point to the basin and towel.

Say: Jesus washed the feet of His friends and even Judas who betrayed Him. He told us to continue the tradition of washing each other's feet as part of the Passover service: "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14-15).

Ask: How would you feel “washing” someone else’s feet?

Say: It’s hard to feel like you’re really important when you’re kneeling at someone’s feet and washing the feet of the other person. Footwashing symbolizes how we are to put away our pride and humbly serve and care for each other.

Here is some unleavened bread that is like the Passover bread. This broken bread pictures Christ’s broken, sinless body that was sacrificed so that Christians might be forgiven of sin and have God’s Spirit and later eternal life.

Here are some little cups of juice that are similar to the cups of wine that your parents drink at the Passover service. Taking the wine symbolizes accepting the blood of our Savior Jesus Christ to pay for our sins and cleanse us of sin.

I want you to know how things are set up for the Passover service. At the Passover, the baptized members present drink the small cup of wine and eat a piece of the broken unleavened bread.

In the Passover service, the minister speaks about how Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life and then died for us, giving us a chance to have our sins forgiven and have everlasting life. Because He paid the price for all of our sins with His perfect sacrifice, we who accept Him and live God’s way have a great future ahead!

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: Jesus wants us to remember Him by keeping the Passover.

Ask: Did you know that the very first Passover happened many years before Jesus’ day?

Say: It all began with the story about Moses who was rescued as a baby from the Nile River and raised by Pharaoh’s daughter in Egypt. He was used by God, when he grew up, to tell Pharaoh to free the Israelite slaves. Pharaoh refused to let them go. Time and time again Egypt had to suffer many plagues because of Pharaoh’s refusing to free the Israelites.

Ask: Can anyone tell me what some of these plagues were? [Water turning to blood, frogs everywhere, lice, gnats, diseased livestock, boils, hail and lightning, locusts, darkness and death of the firstborn. Exodus 7-11 details the plagues.]

Say: Pharaoh failed to learn from any of the first nine plagues. In the final plague an angel was sent to take the life of every firstborn in Egypt.

Ask: Do you know what the firstborn is?

Say: The firstborn is the first child born to his/her parents. However, God said each firstborn would be spared in the Israelites' homes if they would slay a lamb and collect its blood and paint their doorposts with the blood as a signal to the death angel to "pass over them." Many lives of the obedient Israelites were saved that way.

The Israelites were also told to roast the lamb. They were to eat it for supper with unleavened bread and herbs. They usually waited for their bread to rise, but they baked it sooner since God told them to get ready to leave in a hurry the next day. They were finally escaping the cruel slavery of Egypt.

God said this day would be a memorial, a day always to be remembered as the day when God spared them and passed over at midnight their homes marked with the blood of the Passover lamb. He said it should be observed forever throughout all generations (Exodus 12:14).

So Jesus was following God's command when, many years later, He kept the Passover with His disciples. He knew that His last Passover was a very special one and He explained how certain symbols would become more important in the future Passover ceremonies. Instead of sacrificing a lamb, He said we are to share unleavened bread and wine to show that we accept His sacrifice for our sins. The Israelites in Egypt were freed from slavery by trusting in the blood of the lamb, and by the death of the firstborn of the Egyptians. We keep Passover to remind us that by the death of God's firstborn, we escape death and the slavery of sin.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Use the code given here to fill in the letters and complete the message below:

Code:

A-26 B-25 C-24 D-23 E-22 F-21 G-20 H-19 I-18 J-17 K-16 L-15 M-14
 N-13 O-12 P-11 Q-10 R-9 S-8 T-7 U-6 V-5 W-4 X-3 Y-2 Z-1

Message to Decode:

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 17 22 8 6 8 24 26 9 22 8 8 12 14 6 24 19 7 19 26 7

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 19 22 20 26 5 22 19 18 8 15 18 21 22 21 12 9 6 8

[Answer: "Jesus cares so much that He gave His life for us."]

Music:

Sing "Do You Know God's Feasts?" by Ruthie Brown and Mark Graham (see week one of this unit).

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 22:19 "And 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.'"

family activity

THE POINT:

Passover shows how much Jesus cared for us by giving His life for us.

ASK ME...

- What happened in the Old Testament on the first Passover?
- In the New Testament what did Jesus tell His followers to do at Passover?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Make the Passover more meaningful to your children by leaving some related items with them when you leave for the Passover service. Some suggestions are:

- A copy of this lesson for the baby-sitter to review with them.
- A Bible story book.
- A videotape about Moses and the Exodus of the Israelites.
- A videotape about the life of Christ. (Preview any materials ahead of time so you can discuss any discrepancies with the Bible.)

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 22:19 "And 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.'"