

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 5 • Unit 8 • Week 3

DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

[Editor's note to teacher: The lessons of Unit 8 contain a great deal of information. You are not expected to present it in its entirety. We chose not to change what the writer had included, but just inform you that you may concentrate on those areas you feel would be helpful to your class without feeling the need to cover all the material.]

OBJECTIVE:

To add knowledge and understanding of the second step of God's plan of salvation and plant the seed of what the children can do to help their parents during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: Last week your time machine set down in Jerusalem, the morning before Passover—the last Passover that Jesus would spend with His disciples. You witnessed His crucifixion and death. At noon, it became dark—so you made your way back to the safety of the stable. Hungry and tired you fell asleep. Now, wakened by the morning sun, you see a boy just a little older than you coming through the door.

"Hi," he says. "My name is David and I brought you some breakfast and clean clothes. After you eat, I'll show you where you can bathe." You thank him, remembering that you hadn't eaten since the morning before.

"I don't mean to be rude," says David, "but how come you are so dirty and your clothes are so ragged?"

Realizing that he wouldn't understand that you had been a slave making bricks in Egypt just two days before, you search your mind for a truthful explanation that he would understand. "I have traveled a long way and have fallen into misfortune. I have not found kindness until now."

“Keep the clothes for they no longer fit me. Throw those dirty, torn ones away,” David replies.

You thank him with great appreciation. Now that you are clean you feel so much better. But your mind begins to race. What if he asks more questions—how can you answer him? You must be truthful, yet you can’t tell him about the time machine and all the wonders you have seen nor your slavery in Egypt. You also don’t know how he would react. Then, you remember—Jesus had a way of answering others when they asked a question that was not for them to know. He would answer their question with a question or change the subject.

Breaking into your thoughts David says, “It is the First Day of Unleavened Bread, and I will be going with my Father to the temple. Things will be quiet today because no one will be working. The owner of that large house where Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover has already left for the temple. My father is his servant. I must go now. We can talk when I get back. There is so much I want to ask you.”

Do: Optional activity: Pretend you are David and are curious about this interesting stranger. Ask each one of the children a question from the list below. Make it sound friendly, like one kid talking to another, instead of an interrogation.

Instruct them to answer truthfully but not divulge any information about the time machine or anything that David would not be able to understand. If the question is too pointed, they can use Jesus’ method of answering a question with a question or by changing the subject. If the child questioned answers with a question, then you answer their question as David would answer. Depending on how the answers go, you might want to add or change some of the questions. Tailor the “questions” to your class.

1. Hi, I’m back. In my haste to go to the temple I forgot to ask your name. What is it?
2. Are you a runaway slave?
3. I saw you yesterday in the crowd. Why were you avoiding the Roman soldiers?
4. Your clothes are different from ours. Where are you from?
5. What is your country like?
6. Where are your mom and dad?
7. How did you get here?
8. How long have you been traveling?
9. When did you arrive in Jerusalem?
10. Have you heard of Jesus in your country?
11. Have you ever eaten unleavened bread?
12. Do you celebrate the Days of Unleavened Bread?
13. How do you know so much about our Holy Days?

BIBLE LESSON:

DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD OBSERVED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Through Moses, God began teaching the Israelites His plan of salvation. The Passover was to be observed on the 14th of the first month of the year with the Days of Unleavened Bread beginning the very next day. God's Holy Days were to be a memorial and a statute forever, throughout their generations, in all their dwellings. Down through the centuries the Israelites would drift away from God's laws and Holy Days and God would raise up a judge or a prophet to restore the knowledge of God. However, there would always be some people who remained faithful to God and His laws.

During the time of Jesus, people were still observing the Days of Unleavened Bread. They removed the leavening from their homes and ate unleavened bread with their meals during these seven days. They still observed the wavesheaf offering on the day following the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

A sheaf of barley was waved by the high priest to be accepted by God before the spring harvest could begin. The sheaf of barley represented Jesus as the first of the firstfruits to be accepted by God before the spiritual harvest of people could begin. The morning after He was resurrected He went before God the Father to be accepted. Jesus fulfilled the symbolism of the wavesheaf offering, therefore it is no longer practiced.

Were the people still observing the Days of Unleavened Bread during the time of Jesus?

What did the wavesheaf offering symbolize?

MEANING OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Yeast, baking powder and baking soda are forms of leavening. Leavening causes dough to rise or puff up. Because leavening has the ability to spread throughout a lump of dough and cause it to gradually change by being puffed up, God uses it to symbolize sin.

Sin also has the ability to spread throughout a person's character and then influence others. This gradual change takes time and if not checked will destroy the distinctive qualities of a godly person.

Unleavened bread has no leavening, symbolic of being without sin. Unleavened bread eaten at Passover pictures the sinless body of Christ. Unleavened bread eaten during the Days of Unleavened Bread pictures putting sin completely out of our lives.

Why does God use leavening to symbolize sin?

What will sin do if it is not checked.

PUT SIN OUT AND RIGHTEOUS WAYS IN

The Days of Unleavened Bread help to focus our minds on never returning to the sins that Christ paid for with His shed blood. God will help us remove and avoid all types of sin—symbolized by leaven—in every area of our life. Watch for sinful thoughts and actions and avoid them. Through the knowledge

and understanding of God's laws we become conscious of sin—conscious of right and wrong. Knowing that breaking God's laws is sin and that there are consequences makes it easier to choose what is right and good. So fill your life with God's righteous ways and there will be no room for sin.

What kinds of thoughts and actions are we to watch for and avoid?

WHY SEVEN DAYS?

God has given instructions that we are to eat unleavened bread whenever we would eat bread during the seven Days of Unleavened Bread. Seven is God's number symbolizing completeness. Passover pictures the forgiving of our past sins and the seven Days of Unleavened Bread picture the complete putting away of sin.

Why do we avoid leavened bread for seven days?

LESSON APPLICATION:

Do: Have the class go through an imaginary de-leavening of their homes. Collect pictures of all types of items that one might find in a pantry, refrigerator and freezer—leavened and unleavened. If you can't find some of the pictures you want cut squares, rectangles or circles and print the name of the item on them. Make as many items as you like, the more the better. Give each child a turn to take one of the items with leavening and put it in the garbage can or bag. Go around until all items with leavening have been removed.

Ask: Where else should we look for leavening? [Give them help whenever they get stuck. Should we vacuum? Where should we vacuum? What about under the cushions of the sofa and chairs. What about sweeping and mopping? What about the areas where crumbs might fall—like the drawers just below a countertop. Don't forget the toaster, oven, microwave and car—anyplace where one might have crumbs.]

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 23:6 "And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread."

family activity

THE POINT:

To add knowledge and understanding of the second step of God's plan of salvation and plant the seed of what the children can do to help their parents during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Welcome your child's help in de-leavening your home. It will reinforce what he or she has learned. Below are two recipes for the Days of Unleavened Bread. Your child can make one or both recipes with a little help. The Chinese chews are easy and delicious. Better double the recipe!

UNLEAVENED BREAD

4 cups whole-wheat pastry flour
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
3 tablespoons of butter

2 egg yolks
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
7/8 cup milk or water

Sift flour then measure. Add salt and stir. Cut butter into flour. In another bowl beat egg yolks. While continuing to beat, add oil slowly to the egg yolks. Add milk or water, about one fourth of it at first, then the remainder. Pour liquid mixture into flour mixture and stir until it forms a ball of dough. Knead lightly on a floured board for about a minute and shape into a smooth ball. Lightly flour board again. Place 1/3 cup of the dough on floured board. Pat thin with hands, then roll as thin as possible with a rolling pin. Place the rolled dough on an ungreased cookie sheet and mark into squares with a knife. Bake in a pre-heated 400 degree oven for 8 to 12 minutes or until light brown. Note: Whole-wheat pastry flour makes the most tender bread. If using whole-wheat bread flour, increase water or milk to one cup.

CHINESE CHEWS

1 cup sugar
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
2 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup chopped dates
1 cup chopped pecans

Mix sugar, eggs and vanilla. Add flour gradually, then dates and pecans. Stir until mixed and spread in a buttered 8- or 9-inch square pan. Bake in a 350 degree oven for about 30 minutes. Top with powdered sugar while hot. Cut in squares when cooled. Note: It's better to underbake a little. Cover with aluminum foil while cooling, so they stay chewy.

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 23:6 "And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread."