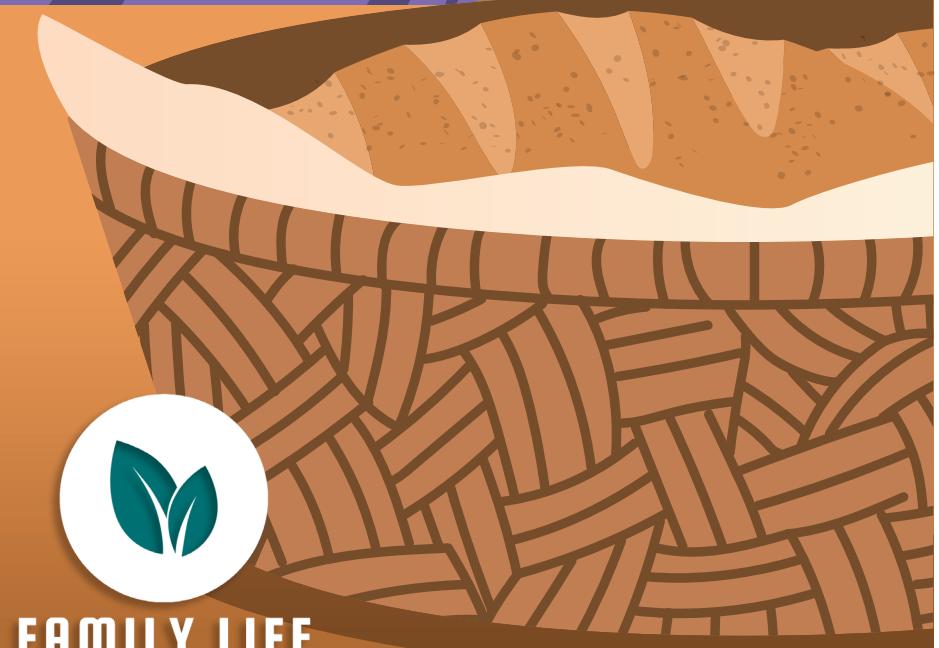


The Passover



FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES



We understand the challenges of busy schedules at home, which is why we offer resources that support you and your family which are easy to use, relevant and most importantly honor God. We pray these resources for your home along with the classes and services at First Church make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Open Bible

Colossians 2:6,7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Most Bible verses in this booklet are quoted from the New International Version



**FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES**

The Passover

DECEMBER "I Am The Light of the World" (John 8:12)

- Star Light (Matthew 2:10)
- A Light in the Darkness (Mark 1:1)
- The Glory of the Lord (Luke 2:9)
- I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)

**JANUARY "I Am the Resurrection and
the Life" (John 11:25-26)**

- Do You Believe?
- Born of the Spirit
- A Very Bad Day
- Living Our New Life

FEBRUARY "I Am the Door" (John 10)

- What Kind of Door is Jesus?
- Gate to the Pasture Land
- The Door to Eternal Life
- The Door to the Kingdom of Heaven

MARCH The Passover (Exodus 12:24-25)

- God Reveals His Plan
- The Plan for Freedom
- The Exodus
- Remember What He Has Done

The Passover

Two thousand years ago, Jesus made plans to celebrate the Passover with his disciples. In Mark 14, we see the importance of the Passover to Jesus and his disciples.

To understand the Passover itself, we must go back another 1450 years to the time that the Israelites were slaves in Egypt.

However, God's plan for His people was revealed 630 years before their exodus from Egypt, in Genesis 15:13-14

Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions."

The story of the Passover is over 4000 years old! These lessons will help us understand it better.

LESSON 1

God Reveals His Plan

Parent's Passage:	Exodus 3 & 4
Family Reading:	Exodus 3:1-10
Key Verse:	Exodus 3:13-14

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

As our story opens God's people, the Israelites, are in slavery in Egypt, and Moses is an outcast in the desert. God hears the cries of His people and is concerned for them.

First, however, he must reveal himself to Moses. Read Exodus 3:1-10

Discuss together how amazing it would be to hear the voice of God from a bush that was burning, but not consumed. This was the experience Moses had on Mount Horeb. As Moses approached the bush, God called out to him, saying, *"I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."* Talk about how God establishes Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The same God who revealed Himself to Moses and established covenants, is the same God who wants to establish a relationship with you. (Exodus 6:3-4)

SIGNS and WONDERS

Exodus 3:2-3

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

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Exodus 4

God had set out his plan and given Moses his instructions, but Moses is not convinced. So, God revealed Himself further to Moses by changing his staff to a snake, and by covering his hand in sores and then healing them. God tells Moses that He will be with him and that He will send Aaron along to help him.

Exodus 4:24-31

Moses and Aaron together go to the elders of the Israelites and tell them God's plan. They also performed the signs before the people, and the Israelites believed them and worshiped the Lord.

Exodus 5

The next step in God's plan was to convince Pharaoh to let his people go. However, Pharaoh only made it harder on the Israelites. God then used signs and wonders to convince Pharaoh.

CONCLUSION

God revealed Himself to Moses through many signs and wonders. He had many conversations with Moses, while He revealed his plan for his people.

Moses learned to listen to God, and became aware of who God was. By chapter 11, the stage was set for the Great Escape. Over a million Israelites would be freed from slavery. However, Moses, Aaron, the Elders, and the Israelites all needed to trust in the Lord and obey Him.

Exodus 11:4 the Lord says "***About midnight I am going into the midst of Egypt***". Pharaoh received his last warning. The Lord said to Moses "***Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that my wonders will be multiplied in the land of Egypt***" (Exodus 11:9)

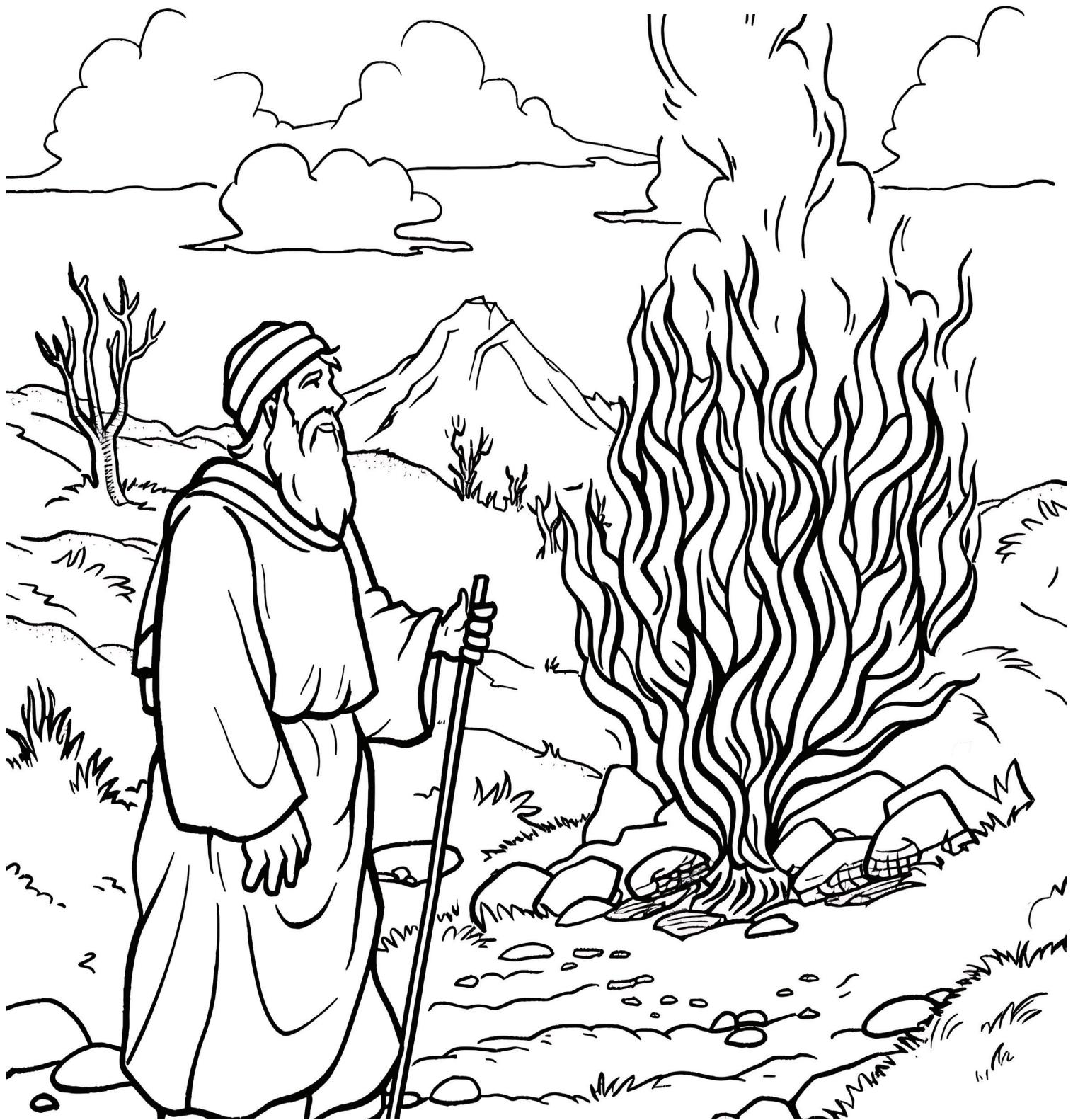
God revealed Himself with many signs and wonders, but the salvation of his people depended on their obedience.

The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:2-3

The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses from within the flames of a burning bush.

Provide red, yellow, and orange crepe or tissue paper and glue sticks so your kids can rip off little pieces and glue them on the fire for a colorful fire effect.



LESSON 2

The Plan for Freedom

Parent's Passage: Exodus 6 & 12

Family Reading: Exodus 6:1-12 & 12:1-23

Key Verse: Exodus 6:1

"Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

Even though God chose His people (Genesis 12:2-3), His people, the Israelites, unfortunately weren't always loyal to God.

Eventually, they ended up in slavery to the Egyptians for 400 years. God remembered His promises to His chosen, though, and because of His love for the Israelites and His actions, He shared a plan with Moses that would bring His people again to freedom.

Although we all can make a choice to follow God and be adopted as part of His family, God is the only one that can provide the way for us to do that. Just like when God freed His people from the Egyptians, it was His actions that made the way. God makes the following "**I will**" statements around what He planned to do (Exodus 6:6-7):

I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians

On farms, a yoke can be used to hold two powerful animals like oxen together so that they are forced to work as one rather than separately. Here, the Yoke represents bondage to the Egyptians that the Israelites haven't been able to escape. God is telling them, though, that He will separate them from the Egyptians.

Jesus also later reassures us that "***my yoke is easy and my burden is light.***" (Matthew 11:30)

(Continued next page)

I will free you from being slaves to them

This seems like God is just restating what He already said, but He is actually explaining that the Israelites will no longer serve the Egyptians, but they will serve God.

Exodus 9:1 ***"Let my people go, that they may serve me."***

I will redeem you with an outstretched arm

Notice how God uses His arm here? These words seem to be intentional because He's talking about gathering His family.

"Israel is my firstborn son" (Exodus 4:23)

This is unlike his reference to using His hand when he talks about the Egyptians. The hand in this Exodus story seems to be aligned with anger or destruction:

- ***"So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians"***
(Exodus 3:20)
- ***"Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand, he will let them go; because of my mighty hand, he will drive them out of his country."*** (Exodus 6:1)

I will take you as my own people and I will be your God

What a beautiful declaration that tells us how God accepts His people. His desire for us, though, is to be in relationship with Him. Even the Israelites, couldn't rely just on their heritage. They would need to choose to follow God and obey His commands. The word, "command" sounds like such a serious word, but remember - we have a loving God and His commands are intended to protect His people.

The plan for the first Passover

Before God released His final plague upon Egypt, He gave these instructions to Moses to pass onto the Israelites to protect them from what was to come (Exodus 12):

- **God redefined time and commanded that the month they were in is to be their first month - He declares a new beginning for His people.**
- **On the 10th day of that month, each man is to take a year-old male sheep or goat (without defect) for his household and care for him until the 14th day.**
- **On the 14th day, it must be slaughtered at twilight and a portion of the blood is to be put on the sides and tops of the door frames of the houses.**
- **The entire animal must be roasted and eaten by the household. Any portion that is not eaten must be burned.**
- **The lamb must be eaten quickly, and your cloak must be tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. God cared for His people and knew they would need to leave quickly and He wanted them to be prepared.**
- **For seven days you are to eat bread made without Any yeast.**

God commanded these things because on the night that the Israelites ate the lamb it was the night God went to each household in Egypt and killed firstborn - whether a person or an animal. When He saw the blood on the doors of His people, though, He passed over those houses and no one in those households would die.

The story of this first Passover in Exodus demonstrates how our God is a God of details and planning. He isn't a God that observes from afar. He desires a relationship with His people and that His people are free to serve and worship Him.

Those who accept Jesus as their savior are also considered His family and as part of His family, we can rejoice in the freedom that can only come from God!

PUT THE PLAGUES IN ORDER

(EXODUS CHAPTERS 7 - 11)

Find a Children's Bible and read the story of the Ten Plagues. Cut out the different "Plague Icons" and paste them in the correct spot next to the number in the order they happened.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



LESSON 3

The Exodus

Parent's Passage: Exodus 12:26-30

Family Reading: Exodus 13:18-24

Key Verse: Exodus 12:37

The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.

The mass migration as described in Exodus is one of the largest recorded in human history. It is difficult to imagine its immense scope. So let's imagine something we know a little more about.

Let's take the state of Iowa. However, let's start first with our capital. Imagine the whole city of Des Moines packing a satchel and taking off for the Missouri river with their pets and livestock. That crowd would be much smaller than the Exodus of the Israelites. In fact, it would take the entire State of Iowa to take off walking together with their farm animals to approximate the size and scale of the mass Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

All of the families and animals of Iowa, walking to the Missouri river, crossing it and camping out in Nebraska!

According to Moses' instructions, the people traveled along in an organized manner according to family groups. (Exodus 13:18) They traveled by the sight of the cloud at day and a pillar of fire by night. (Exodus 13:21)

FAMILY TALK

Talk together about this mighty work of God and what it meant to the people of Israel.

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Talking Points

- **Big crowds, like at the Iowa State fair, but much bigger.**
- **Walking a long, long way - over 100 miles.**
- **Camping out under the stars every night.**
- **Watching for God's guidance day and night.**
- **Being in the biggest parade you could ever imagine.**

Conclusion

God revealed Himself to Moses and gave him instructions. Moses **worshipped** God and **obeyed** Him. God revealed Himself to his people and gave them instructions. His people **worshipped** Him and **obeyed** Him. Exodus 12:27b-28.

God showed Himself strong on behalf of his people. He brought them out of slavery and bondage and brought them to the land He had promised them. His people must worship Him, trust Him, and obey Him. Pray together, asking God to help your family worship Him, trust Him, and obey Him.

Exodus Details

Numbers 1:4-43

Reuben	46,500	
Simeon	59,300	
Gad	45,650	
Judah	74,600	
Issachar	54,400	
Zebulun	57,400	
Joseph:	Ephraim	40,500
	Manasseh	32,400
Benjamin	35,400	
Dan	62,700	
Asher	41,500	
Naphtali	53,400	
Levi	(Not Numbered)	?
	(Subtotal)	603,550
+Women	(Approx.)	600,000
+Children	(Approx.)	1,200,000
		2,803,550

LESSON 4

Remember What He Has Done

Parent's Passage:	I Corinthians 11:23-29
Family Reading:	Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20
Key Verse:	I Corinthians 11:26

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

As we've learned in Exodus 12, the original Passover from the Old Testament was part of God's plan to rescue His people, the Israelites from 400 years of slavery. Also, it was to save them from His final plague against the Egyptians.

As God commanded Moses before that first Passover, the Israelites continued to remember and celebrate the Passover each year - even Jesus followed this commandment while He lived on earth.

Unlike the Passover which saved only the Israelites at the time, Jesus's purpose was to save everyone. Although it was hard for his disciples to understand while Jesus was with them, Jesus knew that He was there to save the world.

There are so many verses in the Bible that tell us this - here are just a few:

- Matthew 28:18- ***And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."***
- John 1:12- ***But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God***

(Continued next page)

- John 3:16- **For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**
- 1 Timothy 1:15- **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**

The night of Jesus's final Passover, He knew it would also be the night He would be taken from His disciples to ultimately die on the cross and pay the final price for our sins. So, Jesus left new instructions that we now call communion.

Here are some similarities and differences for you to think about:

Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread	Jesus' Communion
God makes "I will" statements to remind Moses and the Israelites who He is and His plan for how He will deliver them from slavery (Exodus 6:6-7).	Jesus washes the disciples' feet because of why Jesus came, who He is, and also as an example of humility for His followers (John 13:4-8).
Perfect/unblemished lamb must be sacrificed.	Jesus, who is without sin must take on our sins and sacrifice himself to die on the cross.
Blood from the lamb covers around the Israelites' doors if they believed and followed God's instructions.	Blood of Jesus covers those who believe in Him as their Lord and Savior.
Passover is remembered in part by eating bread without yeast (sometimes also called unleavened bread). This symbolizes how the Israelites fled from slavery quickly.	Jesus breaks the unleavened bread to symbolize His body broken for us. Jesus poured the wine as a symbol of the blood he shed for us.
God commands that the Israelites remember their freedom from their slavery from Egypt every year.	Jesus commands us to remember His sacrifice on the cross and that His body was broken and His blood was shed for our freedom from sin.

Jesus transformed the Passover of the Old Testament into a time for all of His children to remember His sacrifice. I Corinthians 11:26-

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."



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