

Passover

For Kids

2022 Edition



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Dear Parents and Teachers:

Back in 2019 our family was faced with keeping the feasts on our own. Our feast-keeping friends lived nowhere near us. I was just learning about the feasts myself, but wanted to make these times special for our children. In order to have something meaningful to do with them (and to help me better understand these things myself), I hastily wrote the first version of this booklet and shared it with our friends on Maranatha Media in case anyone was looking for something ready-made to do with children. Now in 2021, we have finally sat down to translate this into Spanish, and with this translation work, we also tackled some necessary editing on the booklet.

The objective of this booklet is to provide stories and activities to teach our children about these special Spring Feast times that God has set aside for us to be available to Him and receive His Spirit in greater measure.

You will find enough lessons to cover eight days' meetings. You do not need to do the entire book for the children to benefit from it; simply pick and choose the lessons and activities you prefer. Use this book as a springboard for your own creativity, and use and adapt as you need to.

It is our prayer that by the end of the Passover time, our children may have grasped the most important themes and messages from the Bible stories connected to this feast.

How to use this booklet

In each lesson, we offer the following:

- **Calendar:** At the beginning of each day, show children the calendar so they can see which feast and which day it is. The calendar can be confusing even for adults, so we hope this will help to make it simpler to understand.
- **Main Theme:** This is the main story or topic of the lesson, the most important part of the program. Each story comes with a memory verse for that day. We suggest you teach the memory verse *after* you've presented the theme for the day, and before the activity.
- **Activities:** Suggestions of hands-on activities you can do with the children. These will always be related to the story or main theme of the day. Feel free to adapt or to do something entirely different, depending on the materials you have at hand, and your own creativity and/or preferences. We have chosen activities that require no reading so that children within a wider age range can do them.
- **Songs:** Take time each day, at the beginning and at the end of the meeting, to sing with the children. We're including scripture songs and children's songs that are relevant to what they're learning during Passover. You can pick from our list, or add your own.

Do you need to keep the children occupied for even longer? Consider nature studies, a nature walk, Bible search activities for those children who can read and use their Bibles, inspiring stories, and more crafts or activity sheets.

Further Reading for Parents and Teachers:

The lessons in this booklet are based on the following passages from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, as well as material from maranathamedia.com:

- Exodus 4:29 – 12:51
- Leviticus 23
- Matthew 26 - 28
- Mark 14 - 16
- Luke 22 - 24
- John 13 – 21
- Patriarchs and Prophets, chapters 23 – 24
- The Desire of Ages, chapters 71 - 84
- Living Bread from Heaven:

<http://maranathamedia.com/book/view/living-bread-from-heaven>

Lesson 1: The First Passover

Calendar: Have a large, easily visible calendar similar to the one below. Its purpose is to have the children visualize the feasts in a calendar. This can help them remember the names of the feasts, how many days each feast lasts for, and which days are Sabbaths or Holy Convocations. Note that each year the seventh-day Sabbath will fall on a different day; remember to add this to your calendar.

You can tell the children: Today is the first day of three feasts that are part of the Passover season. In Bible times, people celebrated these feasts. They are important to us because this is a time that God asked His people to meet with Him. He gives us more of the Holy Spirit during this time, if we are willing to meet Him and allow Him to teach us and change us.

Look at the calendar: Today is the Passover. The Jews had different names in their calendar than we do. While we call today [April XX], the Jews called it “Day 14th of the first month”. This Day 14th of the first month falls on a different date for us every year, but it’s always around March or April. Let’s mark it on our calendar:

Passover 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath
						April 16 Day 14, 1 st month Passover
April 17	April 18	April 19	April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23

Main Theme: *The First Passover*

Memory verse: I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no savior. Isaiah 43:11

[For this story, we suggest using visuals such as felts, illustrations, and real objects. These will help to bring the story to life for the children].

The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for many years. They were hoping God would send someone to save them from the Egyptian Pharaoh who made them work so hard and treated them so cruelly.

Then one day, God sent Moses. Moses and his brother Aaron came to speak to the Pharaoh. “God says you need to let our people go and worship Him in the desert, three days’ journey. Then we will come back. Will you give us permission?”

The Pharaoh refused. He didn't want his slaves to stop working, not even for one single day. Since they were slaves, the Israelites couldn't even keep the Sabbath. They were forgetting how to worship God. If Pharaoh had said yes, the Israelites would have been able to worship God again, and the Egyptians would have been blessed for allowing the Israelites to worship. But the Pharaoh wouldn't allow it. In fact, he gave the Israelites even more work to do than before!

Because the Pharaoh refused, and because he said he didn't even know who God was, God was not able to protect the Egyptians any longer. The Pharaoh wouldn't allow it.

One by one, plagues started falling on Egypt. It hurt God to allow this, but the Pharaoh had chosen to reject God and His protection. It was his decision.

First, the river Nile turned to blood. This was terrible for the Egyptians, because they needed water for everything, and Egypt is a hot country. And do you know what? The Egyptians also worshiped their river. Now their river god had turned to blood and couldn't help them! They couldn't use it to cook, drink, or bathe. When the Pharaoh asked Moses to talk to God so He would stop this, Moses did. And God turned the awful river into clean water again.

But once everything was ok again, the Pharaoh again refused to allow the Israelites to leave; he once more rejected God. So again, God had to withdraw His protection, and more plagues came to Egypt. One after another they fell, and every time the Pharaoh begged Moses to ask God to stop them, He did.

Look at the plagues that fell on Egypt:

2. Frogs: there were frogs all over the place! Outside, in the house, in the beds, in their pots and pans...
3. Lice: lice throughout Egypt, disturbing people and animals.
4. Flies: there were flies all over Egypt, disturbing people.
5. A disease on the cattle, horses, donkeys, camels and oxen of the Egyptians: These animals died.
6. Painful boils on people and animals.
7. Hail mingled with fire: God warned the Egyptians beforehand, so that any Egyptian who believed Him would stay inside that day, and keep his animals protected in barns and that he and his servants might stay inside. But those who did not believe God left their animals and servants outside, and the hail killed them. It also destroyed crops and trees in the fields.
8. Locusts: They ate all the plants that the hail hadn't destroyed.
9. Darkness: For three days it was so dark in Egypt that no one could see anything. The darkness was so thick that even if they lit lamps, they still couldn't see anything.

But when all this happened, God still kept the Israelites safe from it, because they believed in Him and hadn't rejected Him. They even had light during the three days of thick darkness.

After nine plagues had come to Egypt, God prepared the Israelites for the last plague: plague number ten. This plague would pass over every single family living in Egypt, even the Israelites. But there was a way to escape from it, and God told the people exactly how to do it.

They would have to pack all their things so they could leave that very night. They also had to prepare bitter herbs and unleavened bread to eat (bread without yeast). And they would have to use the blood of a lamb, and paint their doorposts with it. More than one family could share the same lamb. They would also cook it and eat it, which is why several families could share one lamb. Painting the doorposts was very important. If they didn't do this, then that night every firstborn male in that home would die.

And that is exactly what happened. The Israelites followed God's instructions, but most of the Egyptians did not. And that night, many boys and men, firstborns in Egyptian families, died. The Pharaoh's firstborn son also died. God would have wanted to protect them against Satan the Destroyer, but they refused Him by not believing in Him, and by not following His instructions.

The Pharaoh was so grieved by the death of his son, that he asked the Israelites to leave. It was still dark when all the Israelites left Egypt, with all their animals, and all their things. Every single Israelite left that night. God had opened the way for them to leave Egypt. Now they weren't slaves anymore.

This was the first Passover. During the Passover we remember how God saved the Israelites from being slaves to the Pharaoh, and how He saved the firstborns from dying. This is why it's called the "Passover": Because the Israelites had painted their doorposts with the blood of the lamb, the Destroying Angel "passed over" those houses and didn't hurt anyone in there. The blood of the lamb protected the firstborns, and the destroyer passed over that house.

God wants to do the same for us. We aren't slaves to any king, but do you know what we are slaves to? Sin. Sin makes us slaves, because it's so easy to do wrong things, and so hard to always do the right things. But God tells us that He wants to free us from sin and make us righteous, or good. We need to believe this and accept it, and let Him help us to do the right things.

God sent Jesus to earth so that we might really see that He loves and forgives us and wants us to go to heaven and live forever with Him. And while Jesus was here, He died for us just like that lamb died for the firstborns of those Israelite families. God did everything there was to do so that we can be saved from sin and have eternal life. We just need to believe it and accept it. Let's thank God for that right now!

Activity:

Option 1: *Painting doorposts*: Using the template on page 35, make little paper or cardboard houses (one for each child) with a door. Give them red paint to paint the doorposts. If desired, make doorposts out of popsicle sticks and paint them with red paint. You can also give children a picture or sticker of a lamb to stick next to the house.

Option 2: *The Ten Plagues*: Using the worksheet on page 36, ask the children to number the plagues in the order in which they happened, and to color the pictures.

Lesson 2: The Bread

Calendar: Today is Day 15 of the first month. On this day, another feast starts, right after the Passover. This feast is called the feast of Unleavened Bread, and it lasts seven days. Let's mark these seven days on our calendar. Today, the first day of this feast, is a Holy Convocation. That means people didn't do any servile work, so they could celebrate this feast. And do you know what else people did during this time? For seven days, starting today, they didn't eat any bread with yeast. They only ate unleavened bread. We will talk about this bread today. Let's mark today as a Holy Convocation on our calendar.

Main Theme: *The Bread*

Memory Verse: Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:35

During the Spring feasts, the people used a lot of bread. They ate it, and they also offered it on the altar of sacrifice.

That last night in Egypt, the Israelites were told to make unleavened bread, or bread without yeast. This bread was quick to make, and that made it easier for them, because they had to eat and leave quickly that night. And from then on, they always ate unleavened bread on this date. They also ate only unleavened bread during the next seven days of the feast of unleavened bread. In fact, they were told not to have any yeast in their homes during that time!

Why did they have to avoid the yeast in the bread? Here is bread with yeast [*show the children a loaf of bread*] and here is unleavened bread [*show it to the children*]. What's the difference between them? The unleavened bread is simple, flat, and hard. The one with yeast is soft, round and fluffy. In the Bible, yeast is often used to remind us of sin. When you make dough with yeast, and you let it sit for a couple of hours, the dough gets bigger and bigger. After a while you really know that there's yeast in there! But when you look at unleavened bread dough, it's always the same; it doesn't change. Whenever the Israelites saw unleavened bread, it reminded them of a life, a person, without sin. When they saw bread made from yeast, they remembered that sin is dangerous, and that any little sin in our lives will keep growing until it takes over us.

So, unleavened bread means: a life without sin. Who has a life without sin? No one does, but Jesus did. When Jesus ate His last supper with His disciples, He broke some bread [*break some unleavened bread*] and said, "This is My body." He wanted them to remember Him whenever they saw unleavened bread. Jesus also said, "I am the bread of life". What happens if you eat bread? Are you hungry after you've eaten a lot of bread? Of course not! Bread makes us feel full. In the same way, people often feel spiritually hungry: sad, scared, worried or without hope. They need something to make them feel better. If they spend time learning about Jesus

and being with Jesus, many of those bad feelings that people have start to leave. People feel hope and joy again. Most of all, when people learn about Jesus, they know that God loves them and forgives them and will help them stop sinning. This is so wonderful that they feel spiritually “full” and satisfied.

The Israelites offered unleavened bread on the altar during special times. This bread was supposed to remind them of the Son of God, who comes and fills us and helps us be kind and good like Him.

This is the sanctuary [*hold up an illustration*]. This part here is the courtyard. In the courtyard we have the altar of sacrifice. This is where they offered the lambs as well as the bread and wine.

They would burn part of the bread along with incense, which made it smell really good. [If you are able to, bring some incense so the children can smell it]. The rest of the bread was given to the priests to eat.

Do you know how they made this bread? This bread had flour and oil. The flour is the main ingredient of any bread, and bread reminds us of Jesus. What does the oil remind us of? The Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Himself who comes to help us to stop sinning.

There were special times in the year in which the sacrifices were offered, and it wasn't always the same amount of bread that was offered. Do you want to know when they did it? [*Have a board in which to write out the chart below as you present it:*] Every day, they sacrificed two times: once in the morning at 9.00, and once in the afternoon at 3.00. Each of these times, they made bread from 2 kg of flour, which was about this much: [*show the children a 2 kg bag of flour*], and almost 1 liter of oil [*show children a liter bottle of oil*]. And they did this in the morning, and then again in the evening [*show them another 2 kg of flour, a 1 liter of oil*]. This happened every day.

But when Sabbath came, they used 4 ½ kg of flour, and almost 2 liters of oil, both morning and evening. [*Add more bags of flour and bottles of oil*]. Altogether, it's almost 9 kg of flour, and almost 4 liters of oil! That's double what was used every day. So, on Sabbath, they made double the amount of bread for the sacrifice!

Why do you think they did that? If Jesus is the bread of life, and bread was offered every day, then it means that every day, Jesus is given to us. The bread was offered to remind people of that. Jesus comes to us through the Holy Spirit, which we are reminded of in the oil, to help us overcome sin. He brings us closer to God and changes our character so we can be kind and loving like He is.

If this bread was offered at special times of the day, do you think those times are important for us now? Yes, they are. Jesus is with us all the time, and we can pray to Him anytime – and we should. But there are appointed times when He comes to us in a special measure. Morning and evening are examples of those times. And look at how much He gives us on Sabbaths! This is why Sabbaths are so special, and why there are things that we don't do on Sabbath – we don't want anything to distract us from receiving the gift of Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

So, do you think that morning and evening, and then Sabbaths, are the only times God gave us to receive the Holy Spirit? No, there's even more!

Every month, there's a day called the New Moon. On that day, they made bread out of 37.4 kg of flour, and 15.3 liters of oil! (This is the total of both morning and evening). That's a lot of bread, isn't it! It's eight times what was offered on regular days.

And then came the feasts. During the feast of Unleavened Bread, which we're celebrating now, it totaled 266.2 kg of flour, and 108.9 liters of oil! That's even more than I can bring to show you right now. It's a big number!

During Pentecost, it was 37.4 kg of flour, and 15.3 liters of oil. It's less than during the other feast, because Pentecost only lasts a day, while the feast of Unleavened Bread lasts seven days.

Then for another feast, the Day of Atonement, it was 30.8 kg of flour and 15.3 liters of oil. That's for just one day!

The last feast of the year was amazing. It was the happiest feast of all, and look at how much flour and oil they used during those days: 774.4 kg, and 316.8 liters! I'm not sure that would fit in your car if you wanted to bring it here! *[If you prefer, round off the amounts to the nearest whole number]:*

<i>Time</i>	<i>Flour (kg)</i>	<i>Oil (liters)</i>
Daily	$2.2 + 2.2 = 4.4$	$0.9 + 0.9 = 1.8$
Sabbath Day	$4.4 + 4.4 = 8.8$	$1.8 + 1.8 + 3.6$
New Moon	37.4	15.3
Unleavened Bread	266.2	108.9
Pentecost	37.4	15.3
Feast of Trumpets	63.8	26.1
Day of Atonement	30.8	15.3
Feast of Tabernacles	774.4	316.8

Look at how much of His Spirit Jesus gives us during these special times! This is a wonderful gift that God gives us. Let's thank Him for giving us Jesus, and let's ask Him to help us be open to this gift, so that we can learn all the wonderful things He wants to teach us, and receive His character.

Activity:

Option 1: Make unleavened bread with the children. You can double or triple this recipe, depending on the amount you need to make:

2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1/2 cup hot water

A pinch of salt salt

You can either make them the regular shape, or shape them as crosses or any other shape related to this time.

Option 2: Give each child a copy of the worksheet on page 37. They can color the bread pictures glue sand or flour on them to give them a floury texture.

Lesson 3: The Wine

Calendar: Today is day 16. It was simply one of the days for this second feast. Do you remember what it's called? Yes, the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And on this day, the people also ate flat bread, or unleavened bread, like the one we made yesterday. Can you find today on the calendar? Let's point to it (it will already have been marked yesterday).

Main Theme: *The Wine Offering*

Memory Verse: Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. Psalm 4:7

Look what I brought for you today: grape juice. In the Bible, they call it wine. It's only got grape juice, and nothing else. The best wine in the Bible didn't have any water mixed with it.

[*Show an illustration of Jesus at the last supper, holding a cup of wine*]. When Jesus had His last Passover with His disciples, He shared wine with them, and told them, "This is my blood. Take it and drink." It wasn't *really* His blood, and the disciples knew it. They understood that He was trying to tell them that, whenever they drank grape juice during Passover, they should remember what Jesus had done for them. They didn't know it yet, but Jesus was soon going to be crucified. The grape juice was there to remind them that Jesus had given His blood for them – for us – so that we can be saved. So, what does this wine, or grape juice, remind us of? The blood of Jesus, His death on the cross. But the Bible teaches us even more about the wine.

Remember what this is? [*Show the illustration of the Sanctuary*]. It's the Sanctuary. Yesterday we saw where they offered the sacrifices: it was here in the courtyard, on the altar of sacrifice. What did they sacrifice there? Lambs, bread (flour and oil), and wine as well.

Everything they offered had to be the best. The wine had to be new wine, fresh, not mixed with water or anything else, and it couldn't have alcohol in it, either. It was the best, fresh grape juice.

So, when they offered at the altar, they offered [*hold up illustrations*]:

- A **lamb** (sometimes it was a bull or goat). What did it mean? It meant that Jesus was going to suffer and die for everyone. The lamb reminded people that their sins would cause the Son of God to die.
- **Flour**. With flour, they made bread. What does bread mean? Jesus – the life that Jesus gives us. Just like we can't live without food, we also can't have a good spiritual life without Jesus. And the bread had something in it:
- **Oil**. It was also used for making the bread. What does oil mean? The Holy Spirit, which Jesus gives to us if we "eat" of Him, or if we spend time with Him.

- **Wine.** The wine reminds us of the blood of Jesus, but wine in the Bible also means joy, or delight. People usually drank wine during special occasions like weddings or feasts, or whenever they had special guests in their home. Wine tastes sweet and yummy, and it made people feel happy, just like we feel happy whenever we eat something tasty, especially if we're eating something tasty on a special day, with people we love.

Look at these offerings. It's very sad to sacrifice an animal [point to the lamb]. This happened because it was the best way to help people understand how really horrible and dangerous sin is. Sin brings death, and it made Jesus suffer and die, just like the lamb suffered and died. But the sacrifice also gives us hope: [point to the bread, and/or flour] Jesus is given to us every day, to give us life, and He gives [point to the oil] His Holy Spirit to help us overcome sin. And this close relationship with Jesus brings us [point to the wine] joy. Jesus shares with us the delight in knowing His Father. People who truly know God and understand that they are His children are truly happy, and they have peace, even when sad things happen in their lives. And do you know what happens with joyful people? They get along well with others. They don't fight, argue, or hurt others. They are so peaceful and happy that they want the same for the people around them.

So, the wine was offered on the altar. Let's see how much wine was offered [feel free to round off the numbers]:

Daily	1.8 liters
Sabbath	3.6 liters
New Moon	11.1 liters
Feast of Unleavened Bread	77.7 liters
Pentecost	12.9 liters
Seventh Month Feasts	278.7 liters

Look at how much more wine is being offered as we go from the daily offerings, to the Sabbath Day, to the New Moon, and to the feasts. This means that Jesus wants to give us joy, and the more we enter into His appointed times, the more joy He will be able to give us!

Did you know that, in order for Jesus to give us those things, He suffers? To give us life, He has to see all the horrible things that happen in this earth. Yet He still gives life to all of us. When He gives us life, His Spirit, and His joy, it costs Him, but He does it anyway because He loves us, and He wants us to have eternal life. Do you know how the offerings show of His suffering? The lamb was killed, just like He was killed on the cross. And to get flour, we need to grind the wheat. To get oil, we need to press the olives. To get grape juice, the grapes are crushed. [Show pictures of wheat, olives and grapes, or the actual things]. Jesus is crushed every day when He sees all the sin in this world, but He keeps it alive just so we can have a chance to know Him and accept eternal life. He does this every single day, but especially during the special times, the appointed times.

Let's thank God for giving us joy through Jesus. Let's ask Him to make us ready so we can receive that joy.

Activity:

Option 1: Bring plastic cups or small bottles for the children to decorate with stickers, washi tape or ribbons. Let them drink grape juice from them if you wish.

Option 2: Give each child a copy of the worksheet on page 38. Children can color and decorate the pictures as they wish

Lesson 4: The Passover with Jesus

Calendar: Today we are on day 17 of the first month. And we are on which feast? Yes, the Feast of Unleavened Bread. How many days did this feast last? 7. And today is the third day of it. Can you point to today?

Main Theme: *The Passover with Jesus*

Memory Verse: For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

[Use illustrations, felts and real objects to tell this story].

Jesus knew that it would be His last Passover with His disciples. First, He told His disciples exactly who to see in order to get a room in which to have the Passover meal. When it was time, everything was ready and Jesus and His disciples came into the upper room to celebrate the Passover.

The food was on the table. Nearby, there were water basins and towels to wash everyone's feet. But there was no servant to wash their feet. The disciples all sat down, wondering who would wash their feet. "I won't wash *anyone's* feet. I'm more important than they are," thought each of the disciples. They felt angry and jealous at each other. They believed that Jesus would soon become king, and each of them wanted to be the most important prime minister with Jesus.

Jesus felt sad. How could He prepare His disciples for what was going to happen soon? He was going to die on a cross, not become a king. His kingdom was a spiritual kingdom, not the kind of kingdom the disciples thought it would be. To start changing their way of thinking, Jesus stood up, picked up the basin and a towel, and began going around the table, washing their feet, one by one.

The disciples felt ashamed. They wanted Jesus to be king, yet He was washing their feet! Peter even said, "No, Jesus, you won't wash my feet!" But Jesus answered him, "If I don't wash you, you will have no share with me." "Then, please wash my hands and head as well," urged Peter. "That won't be necessary," answered Jesus, "Those who have already been washed, only need to wash their feet."

Then Jesus sat down and said to them, "Do you see what I've done today? If I, whom you call Master and Lord, have washed your feet, then you need to do the same with each other."

Jesus was giving them, and us, an example of how we should treat others. Instead of expecting people to do things for us and to please us all the time, we need to serve others and see how to be helpful and pleasant to them. We need to treat each other as if we are all special and important, because in God's kingdom, everyone is precious.

Now the disciples were feeling different than before. All of them, except Judas, were now willing to let any of the other disciples be the prime minister with Jesus. The jealousy and anger were gone. They loved each other.

Now Jesus could teach them some more. [*Show children some unleavened bread, and break it. Let the children know that at the end of the class, they'll be able to eat it*]. Jesus took bread and broke it, and gave some to each disciple. "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [*Hold up a cup with grape juice*] Then He took the cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

What did the bread and wine mean? It meant the body of Jesus, and the blood of Jesus. He was going to be broken, or hurt, and He would die on the cross for all of us. He was going to be the real lamb that would die for the sins of all the world. After He died, people would no longer need to sacrifice lambs or offer bread and wine. Instead, Jesus asked the disciples to do what He'd done during this last Passover with them. That's why in church we do what we call Communion, which is washing each other's feet, and taking unleavened bread and wine, remembering what Jesus did for us on the cross. The bread and wine also remind us that each day we are alive because Jesus gives us His life and His Holy Spirit to help us. It hurts Him to do this, because He has to see all the sin that is happening inside us, but He does it anyway because He loves us and wants to help us get ready for Heaven.

Let's thank God for giving us Jesus. Let's thank Him that Jesus died for us, and is still giving us of His Spirit every day so we can get ready to go to Heaven. Let's ask Him to help us love each other and serve each other, just like Jesus did when He washed His disciples' feet.

Activity:

Option 1: Give each child a piece of felt or towel-like fabric. Help the children to thread pieces of wool at the end like tassels, or to decorate the towel with fabric markers. Tell them to remember, whenever they see their towel, what Jesus did for His disciples, and how He can help us to serve others.

Option 2: Give each child playdough and ask them to make a basin like the one Jesus might have used to wash the disciples' feet. They can also make a table, flatbread and a wine cup.

Option 3: Children can cut out the puzzle pictures on page 39, put the puzzle together and color the pictures.

Lesson 5: Abandoned by His Friends

Calendar: Today is day 18th of the first month, and the fourth day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Let's point to it on the calendar.

Main Theme: *Abandoned by His friends*

<p>Memory Verse: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13</p>

[Use illustrations and/or felts, as well as real objects, to tell this story]

Yesterday we saw what Jesus taught the disciples during the Passover meal. After they saw Him washing their feet, they changed. They loved each other and were humble. Yet Jesus said to them, "One of you will betray me."

The disciples were shocked. How could that happen? "Is it I?" they asked, one by one. Finally, Judas asked, "Is it I?" He hadn't wanted to ask it, because he was planning to betray Jesus. But if he didn't say it, the other disciples would wonder. "You have said it," answered Jesus quietly.

Jesus was giving Judas all the chances to repent, to stop what he was about to do. But Judas didn't pay attention to what the Holy Spirit was telling him. After a few minutes, he left the room.

Judas went straight to where the priests were, and agreed to sell Jesus to them. They gave him 30 silver coins, and he agreed to take them to where Jesus was, so they could arrest Him.

Meanwhile, Jesus and the other disciples finished their meal and sang Psalm 117. Then they walked towards the Garden of Gethsemane. The whole time, Jesus talked to them, teaching them about His kingdom. He told them that He would send His Holy Spirit to help them remember everything He had taught them. As they reached Gethsemane, Jesus got sadder and sadder.

Jesus asked Peter, James and John, his closest friends, to go with him to a special spot in the garden. "Please stay here, and pray," Jesus asked them. Then He went off a few meters away, and started praying.

Jesus was beginning to feel the whole weight of the sins of the world on Him. He carried everybody's sins: from Adam, throughout all the history of the world, right up to the end. Even your sins and my sins, and the sins of His disciples at that moment. As He carried our sins, He felt the presence of the Father leaving Him, just like what will happen in the end of time to those who have rejected God. The weight of guilt and hopelessness was so heavy that Jesus started to sweat blood. He felt an anguish so big that we can't even imagine it. "Father, please take this cup away from me if that is your will. But let your will be done," prayed Jesus.

The “cup” He prayed about wasn’t a real cup; it was the horrible experience He was going through now. When something horrible happens to you, sometimes people say you’re “drinking a bitter cup”. It’s a way of saying things. And after praying, Jesus understood that He had to go through this and carry our sins, if we were to be saved.

When you are feeling sad or hurt, do you like it if your family or a friend is with you? Jesus felt the same way. Now that His Father’s presence was taken from Him because of our sins, He needed His friends. He looked to see if Peter, James and John were praying like He had asked them to. But what were they doing? They were sleeping. Saddened, Jesus woke them up and asked them to pray again. But again, they fell asleep.

“Please, Father, let this cup pass from me, but only if it’s Your will,” prayed Jesus. He fell to the ground, almost dying, as the weight of our sins crushed Him. If only His friends were there to comfort Him!

But God didn’t leave Jesus alone. He sent an angel to encourage Jesus and to comfort Him. “God is stronger than Satan,” the angel reminded Him, “What you are doing now is going to save people from sin. Without You, they will be lost.” Now Jesus felt more strengthened and encouraged to face what would happen next.

He went to awaken the disciples, but they had woken up with the light of the angel.

A few minutes later, a mob came, with Judas leading it. Then came to Jesus and kissed Him on the cheek. This was the sign for the mob to know who Jesus was, so they could capture Him. “Judas, are you betraying Me with a kiss?” asked Jesus sadly.

When Peter saw that they wanted to arrest Jesus, he grabbed a sword and cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant. Jesus instantly said, “Peter, put away the sword.” This was not the way to do things in God’s kingdom. Then He picked up the ear and put it back on the servant. He was instantly healed.

But the priests made them arrest Jesus anyway, and He was taken to the High Priest. Jesus’ disciples were all so scared that they ran away to hide. The only ones who stayed nearby were Judas, John, and Peter. We know why Judas was there. John remained close by because he was worried about what would happen to Jesus. Peter felt just like John, but he was so afraid that he didn’t want anyone to know who he was.

As Peter tried to hide among the crowd that gathered to watch Jesus at the High Priest’s court, three people, one after the other, said to him, “You’re one of His disciples, aren’t you?” All three times, Peter denied it. “No, of course I’m not!” “But you speak like Him,” said someone. “No, of course I don’t!” And Peter said a lot of ugly words that Jesus would never have said. The third time Peter denied Jesus, he heard a rooster crowing. Then Jesus looked at him from where he was, both sadly and kindly at the same time. Peter felt awful as he remembered that Jesus had told him, “Peter, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times.” Peter had thought that He loved Jesus too much to ever deny Him, but when he got scared, he did it. He felt so ashamed and so guilty that he ran off into the night, and cried for a long time.

Meanwhile, Judas saw that Jesus was not freeing Himself from the priests. “Why won’t He free Himself?” he thought, “I betrayed Him so we could get some money, and he would free Himself and become king. It’s not supposed to happen like this!” Suddenly Judas came into the room where Jesus was. “Please, let Him go, He hasn’t done anything wrong! Here, take your money back,” he begged the priests. He threw the 30 coins on the floor. But the high priest refused to let Jesus go. “Jesus, you are the Son of God, please free yourself!” pleaded Judas. Jesus looked at him kindly and said, “This is what I came to the world for.”

When Judas saw that Jesus wouldn’t free Himself, he ran off into the night, just like Peter. But there was a difference: Peter confessed his sin, and accepted God’s forgiveness, but Judas decided that he could not be forgiven. Judas killed himself that very night, but Peter held on. After Jesus was raised from the dead, He spent time with Peter, and he knew he was forgiven.

But that night, Jesus was all alone. His disciples, except for John, had all ran away. One of them had denied Him, and another one had betrayed Him. Yet Jesus loved them all anyway, and He loved each of us so much, that He suffered to save all of us.

Let’s thank God for sending Jesus. Let’s thank Him that Jesus was willing to suffer for us, even when all of His friends had left Him all alone. Let’s ask Him to help us be faithful to Him.

Activity:

Option 1: Provide pictures of Gethsemane and/or Jesus healing the high priest’s servant, for the children to paint or color (search online for this).

Option 2: Give each child a copy of the worksheet on page 40. Talk about how each of the pictures on this page reminds you of today’s story. Then color the pictures and decorate them as suggested on the page.

Lesson 6: Jesus on Trial

Calendar: Can you point to today? Today is the fifth day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Main Theme: *Jesus on Trial*

Memory Verse: And you know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 1 John 3:5

It was a long night for Jesus. After the meal with His disciples, He suffered alone in the Garden of Gethsemane. Then He was arrested by that terrible mob of people, and His friends all ran away from Him. Only John and Peter came back, and we know what Peter did.

Jesus was taken to the home of Annas, who had been the high priest before. Annas really wanted to find a reason to accuse Jesus. He asked questions, trying to trap Jesus into saying something wrong. Jesus answered, "I have always talked openly. I haven't kept things secret. Why don't you ask those who have heard me?" Annas' servant slapped Jesus in the face, telling Him that He was being disrespectful. But he couldn't really tell Jesus what He'd done wrong, because Jesus hadn't said or done anything wrong at all.

Then He was taken to the palace of Caiaphas, the high priest. They all went to the high priest's courtroom. The priests asked Jesus questions and accused Him of blasphemy, but Jesus kept silent. The priests even paid people to come and tell lies about Jesus, but everyone could see that they were lying. Then Caiaphas asked Jesus: "Tell me, in the name of the Living God, if you are the Christ, the Son of God." To this Jesus answered, "You have said it."

Caiaphas then ripped his robe to express how upset he was. "Look at how He blasphemes! He says He is like God!", he said. But when Caiaphas did this, he was breaking the law of God. The high priest was not allowed to rip his clothes. His clothing had to be perfect, because the high priest represented Jesus, who was perfect. When Caiaphas ripped his clothing, according to God's law, he stopped having the authority of a high priest. Also, it was against the Jewish law to have a trial during the night, but that's what they were doing with Jesus. The priests were breaking God's law in every possible sense.

Then Jesus was taken away by the soldiers. The mob and the soldiers made fun of Jesus and hurt Him, until they brought Him back to the priests, and the priests pronounced Him guilty. Then they made fun of Jesus and hurt Him some more.

The priests were not allowed to send Jesus to prison or to put Him to death. This could only be done through the Roman government. This is why they took Jesus to the court of Pilate, the Roman governor. But when they reached Pilate, they realized it would be very hard to come up with a reason to put Jesus to death. They told lies about Jesus. But Pilate could see they were lying, and that Jesus was innocent. Pilate spoke with Jesus, and was convinced that Jesus was divine, and that He hadn't done anything wrong. But he was also afraid of the people. He told them, "I can't find anything wrong with Him." But instead of letting Jesus go free, he sent Him to Herod, the governor of Galilee, because Jesus was from Galilee.

Herod was glad to see Jesus. He asked Jesus to perform a miracle, but of course Jesus didn't. This was not the time, the place, or the reason for a miracle. Jesus stood silent. Herod felt annoyed that Jesus wouldn't talk to him, so he dressed Jesus in a king's robe and made fun of Him. He knew that Jesus was innocent, but instead of letting Him go, he sent Him back to Pilate. He was also too scared of the people to set Jesus free.

Pilate was not happy when they brought Jesus back to him. "I told you He's innocent," he said, "I'll let Him go after He gets beaten." Why would Pilate order Jesus to be beaten, if He was innocent? He was trying to please the crowd of people. But this was the wrong thing to do. The people wanted more. "Crucify Him!" they demanded. Just then, a letter came from Pilate's wife: "Please, don't do anything to this man. I had a terrible dream about Him." She had seen in her dream that Jesus was from God, and that it would be terrible to be one of the people who put Him to death.

Then Pilate had an idea. Every Passover, the Romans would free one prisoner from being crucified. He brought out Barrabas, the most violent criminal of all. He asked the people, "Who would you like to set free, Jesus or Barrabas?" The people answered, "Give us Barrabas! Crucify Jesus!" Pilate couldn't believe his ears. "What has Jesus done wrong?" he asked. Finally, Pilate gave in to the demands of the crowd. He allowed the people to put a red robe on Jesus and make fun of Him, saying, "Here is the king of the Jews!". He also allowed the soldiers to put a crown of thorns on His head, and to hit him with a staff. The whole time, Jesus was silent, just like a lamb. He never complained, and He never gave an angry or frustrated look at anyone. He was perfect and sinless.

Once more, Pilate tried to free Jesus, but the people said, "If you free Him, then you are showing that you don't respect the Caesar. This made Pilate afraid. The Caesar was the Roman Emperor, the most important person in all of Rome. It would be terrible if Caesar got angry with him! Pilate finally washed his hands and said, "I am innocent of killing this man." Yet he allowed Jesus to be taken and crucified. The priests were very happy. "Yes, let us be guilty of killing Him," they said. And the soldiers took Jesus away to be crucified.

God had given the people enough opportunity to see that Jesus was the Son of God. It's very sad that they decided not to listen to what God was trying to show them. Both Herod and Pilate lived very sad lives after Jesus was crucified. They had no peace until they died. And as for the priests and the people, they lost the protection of God, and forty years later, Jerusalem was completely destroyed, and many people died. This was their choice; they rejected God when they rejected His Son.

Yet Jesus agreed to die for all of them, and for every single person, so that those who accepted Him, would be able to have eternal life. Let's thank Jesus for doing everything possible so that we can be saved!

Activity:

Option 1: Give each child a copy of the worksheet on page 41. Draw arrows or footprints to mark the path that Jesus walked the night before His crucifixion.

Option 2: For children who can already read and handle their Bibles, prepare a “who said it” worksheet, featuring what Pilate, Pilate’s wife, Herod, the Priests, Peter, Judas, the crowd, and Jesus said during the trial (we suggest you include a Bible reference for each saying). Have the children match them. Alternately, you can provide pictures of each person, along with the sayings in blurbs, and let the children cut and paste the blurbs next to each person. They can then colour the pictures.

Lesson 7: Jesus on the Cross

Calendar: Today is day 6 of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Can you point to it in the calendar?

Main Theme: *Jesus dies for us*

Memory Verse: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

When Adam and Eve first sinned, they allowed Satan to take over their thinking. Before sinning, they believed that God loved them very much. But after sinning, they believed what Satan wanted them to believe: “Every sin needs to be punished, and that is why God is going to kill you.” How this hurt God and His Son! They wanted Adam and Eve to understand that they were loved, and that God was longing to forgive them, if only they repented and asked for forgiveness. But because people’s minds were now clouded with Satan’s ideas, they could not accept this forgiveness without death. God had to teach them His love in a language they could understand.

Since they believed that they had to die because of their sin, God told them His Son would come to the world to die for every single person. Whoever accepted His Son, could receive eternal life. Then He told them that, until that happened, they would have to sacrifice a lamb as a way to see what their sins did to God’s Son. Have you seen little lambs? They are gentle, soft, and don’t hurt anyone. When they are killed, they don’t make any noise. It’s very sad when a lamb dies, because lambs are so sweet and innocent. God desired that every time someone sacrificed a lamb, they would really understand how their sins were hurting the Son of God, and how He would come and die for them, innocent and gentle, like a lamb.

If people’s minds hadn’t been clouded by Satan’s wrong ideas about God, they would have been able to understand God’s love and forgiveness without the need to sacrifice any animals. God never wanted animals to suffer and He loathes it, but He allowed it because it was what people needed to understand what He was trying to tell them.

In the time of Jesus, the priests had quite forgotten the meaning of the sacrifice. They thought they pleased God by killing lambs, but that killing did not please God at all. What God wanted was for people’s hearts to change, and for them to be sorry for their sins. If only people would stop sinning, so that sweet lambs wouldn’t need to be sacrificed anymore as a reminder to them!

The people who were with Jesus at the trial didn’t even realize that they had sent God’s Son, the Lamb, to be crucified. The soldiers placed a heavy wooden cross on Jesus’ shoulders, and they wanted Him to carry it all the way, right up the mountain, to Calvary. But Jesus was too weak. He hadn’t slept, eaten or drunk anything for many hours, and His body was hurting from all the beatings and slaps He’d received. He was also carrying all of our sins, and that

was causing Him a lot of suffering. He tried to carry the cross, but it was way too heavy; He fell to the ground. He tried again, but He just couldn't carry it.

The soldiers understood. They saw a man standing there, watching, and they ordered him to carry the cross for Jesus. The man's name was Simon the Cyrene. Simon did not believe in Jesus, even though his two sons did. But after that day, Simon became a follower of Jesus. He was thankful that he had been able to help Jesus by carrying the heavy cross for Him. He noticed how gentle and good Jesus was, and how evil the priests and rulers were, and he believed from that day on that Jesus was the Son of God.

When they reached Calvary, the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. "Father, please forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing," prayed Jesus out loud. Mary, the mother of Jesus, stood near the cross. John the disciple stood next to her. Jesus was hurting a lot, but He worried about His mother. "John, here's your mother, Mother, here's your son," He said. From that day, John made sure that Mary lived in his home, and he treated her like his own mother. It was very comforting for them to know that Jesus had chosen for them to be together.

Pilate was upset with himself. Jesus was innocent! Why had he allowed Him to be crucified? He was angry at the priests that had pushed him into crucifying Jesus. He made a sign that said, "Jesus, King of the Jews", in three languages, and he had it hung on Jesus' cross. "Please change this sign; make it say that He *said* He was the King of the Jews; He's not really our king," they begged him. But Pilate refused. Now everyone would be able to read and know that the Jews had put their own King on the cross.

The people didn't realize it then, but later, when they studied the Scriptures, they would see that many things happened that day which had already been written in the Scriptures: the soldiers got Jesus' clothes and cast lots to see who would get to keep them; Jesus said He was thirsty, and a soldier offered Him some vinegar dipped in a sponge on a long stick (Jesus refused to drink it); the priests, rulers and the people made fun of Jesus, and Jesus' bones were not broken, even though the soldiers would often break the legs of men who were on the cross.

There were two thieves on the crosses next to Jesus, and they saw everything that happened. One of them said to Jesus, "If you are the Messiah, then save yourself and us!" But the other thief said, "How can you say that to Him? We are here because of crimes we committed, but this man did nothing wrong." This thief was sorry he had wasted his life hurting others. He said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when you come into Your kingdom." Jesus was filled with joy. "Today I tell you, you will be with me in Heaven," He answered him. This man was promised eternal life because he was sorry for his sins, and he believed in Jesus.

At midday, it suddenly became dark. Nature suffered along with Jesus the Creator, so not even the sun shone. And in this darkness, God came close to His Son. Jesus couldn't see or feel Him because of the sins He carried for us, but His Father was really close to Him, suffering with Him. But the people, scared of the darkness, started to leave the place.

At 3.00, the darkness lifted and the sun shone again, but the cross was still covered in darkness. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have You left me?" The sins He carried were so heavy that He felt completely abandoned by God. But He chose to believe that His Father loved Him, and finally He said, "It is finished! Into Your hands I commit my spirit." Then He died. The centurion, or Roman soldier, who was watching, was amazed at everything he had seen. He didn't know much about God because he was a Roman, but he said, fully convinced, "Truly this was the Son of God."

Just as this happened, the priests were in the temple, ready to sacrifice the Passover lamb. Just as the priest was about to kill the lamb, there was an earthquake, and the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was ripped open. Suddenly everyone could see the Most Holy Place, a place that only the High Priest had ever seen before. The people got scared and confused; the priest dropped his knife, and the lamb that was about to be slain got away. From this time on, it would not be necessary to sacrifice any more lambs, because Jesus, the true Lamb of God, had just been sacrificed for all the people in the whole world.

Now all of heaven, and all the worlds that had never sinned, could see how evil Satan is, and how loving, meek and patient God is. Satan made the people treat Jesus in the cruelest way possible, and he made people believe lies about Jesus. But Jesus, the Son of God, treated everyone with love, forgiveness and respect, and always told the truth. We can now see this big difference between God's character and Satan's character, too. Let's thank God for allowing His Son to come to the world to show us how much God loves us, and to save us from our sins.

Activity:

Option 1: Have the children make crosses by stringing beads onto two pieces of pipe cleaners, then bending the pipe cleaners to shape them into a cross.

Option 2: Have the children make a sheep. Search the Internet or use your own ideas to decide how they will make it (it depends on the children's abilities and the materials you have at hand). You could provide a picture of a sheep and they glue cotton on it, or you could help them make sheep out of felt, wool, pompoms, or paper bags.

Option 3: Give each child a copy of the worksheet on page 42. On the lines provided, write the names of each of the men who came to believe in Jesus during the crucifixion. Then color the pictures.

Lesson 8: The Resurrection

Calendar: Today is Day 7 of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the last day of this special feast time. And today is extra special, because it is a Holy Convocation, another day in which people didn't do any servile work. This way they had extra time to worship and be together. Remember that Day 1 of this feast was also a Holy Convocation. Can you find today on the calendar?

Today we will also talk about the Feast of the Firstfruits, or the waving of the sheaf. This feast is actually celebrated during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but on the day right after the Sabbath. Can you find it on the calendar? It's right here. We're going to talk about this feast today because it has to do with the resurrection of Jesus, and today we'll look at that story.

Main Theme: *He is Risen!*

Memory Verse: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

It was just past 3.00 on Friday afternoon, and Jesus had just died. The disciples were very sad. They loved Jesus so much. They wished they had money to bury Him properly, but they didn't. Just then, two kind, rich men who were also from the Sanhedrin, arrived. Their names were Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. They had not been part of the wicked group of priests who sent Jesus to the cross, and they were very upset about what had happened. Joseph had just bought a tomb, and he asked Pilate for permission to place Jesus there. Nicodemus brought some expensive myrrh and aloe to cover Jesus' body with, the way it was done in those days. Then they wrapped Jesus in a linen sheet, and laid Him in Joseph's tomb, just before the Sabbath hours began.

The priests thought they would be happy after Jesus died, but they weren't. Already there were sick people looking for Jesus, and asking why He wasn't there to heal them. Others were asking the priests about Scripture texts that explained what had happened that day. Of course, the priests couldn't explain those texts. The priests were also afraid that Jesus would really rise from the dead, like He had said. They sealed the tomb and placed 100 Roman soldiers around it to guard it, hoping that He would never be able to get out.

Early on Sunday morning, when it was still dark, there was an earthquake as an angel of God arrived to awaken Jesus. The soldiers watched, as the angel, full of brightness, moved the huge rock to open the tomb, and said, "Son of God, come forth; Your Father calls you!" Jesus came out, shining in glory, and said, "I am the resurrection and the life." There were other angels at the tomb, and they all bowed down and worshiped Jesus, and they started singing praises. The soldiers fell to the floor as if they were dead.

When Jesus and the angels left, the soldiers awoke and went to see Pilate. They told everyone they met what had happened. The priests quickly called them. The soldiers told them everything they had seen. Caiaphas was afraid, but he quickly had an idea: "Tell everyone that you fell asleep, and that the disciples stole the body. Pilate won't want anyone to know that he is risen, either. We will make sure that he doesn't punish you for falling asleep during your guard." He paid them big sums of money for them to tell this lie.

But people were still able to hear the truth. There were people who had heard the soldiers telling what had really happened, and they told others what they'd heard. Also, when Jesus rose from the dead, there were others who had also been raised with Him. These people had believed in God and worked for Him, and then died. Now they were risen, and they went out and told others that Jesus had risen, too.

That morning, the Jews were celebrating the Feast of the First fruits, or the Waving of the Sheaf. In this feast, the priest would receive a sheaf, a bunch, of the first ripe grains of the harvest in Israel. He would wave it in the temple before God, as a way to thank God for the harvest and the food they were going to have that year. As the people celebrated this, they didn't realize that Jesus was the first fruits Himself. Just like that sheaf was the first bit of grain they could harvest that year, Jesus was the first of the "harvest" of people that God would raise to life again and take to Heaven. The harvest of grain was supposed to remind the people that there would be a spiritual harvest, a day in which God will gather all His children together and take them to heaven. Because Jesus had been raised to life, it would be possible for every single person who believed in Him to be raised, too, when He comes again.

The people who had been raised from the dead along with Jesus were also the first fruits; they were the first people that Jesus raised and took with Him to Heaven after His death. They are proof that Jesus will be able to do the same with every other person who loves and believes in Him.

Early Sunday morning, some women who were Jesus' friends went to the tomb, carrying anointing spices similar to the ones Nicodemus had used. "Who will open the tomb for us?" they wondered.

Mary Magdalene arrived first, and she saw the tomb opened, and empty. She ran to Peter and John, telling them, "They have taken Jesus from the tomb, and I don't know where they took Him!"

Meanwhile, the rest of the women arrived. As they looked around, they saw an angel outside the tomb, and another inside the tomb. The angels told them, "Don't be afraid! You're looking for Jesus, aren't you? He's not here; He is risen. Come and see where He was laid. Remember that He told you He would rise on the third day?" The angels kept on speaking, "Go, tell the disciples and Peter, to go and meet Him in Galilee." The women were overjoyed, and ran off to tell the rest of the disciples.

Just then Peter, John and Mary came running back to the tomb, and found it empty. Then they noticed that all the linen cloths that Jesus had been covered with were neatly folded;

Jesus Himself had done this, because He likes neatness and order. When John saw this, he remembered that Jesus had told them He would rise again, and he believed.

Then Peter and John left, but Mary remained. She still didn't understand what had happened. She looked inside the empty tomb, and saw the two angels in the tomb, but she didn't know they were angels. "Why are you crying?" they asked her kindly. "Because they've taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they've put Him," she answered. As she turned away to leave, she heard a man asking her, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" She answered, "Sir, if you've taken Him, please show me where you've put Him, and I will take Him away." Now the man talked to her in a voice she knew: the voice of Jesus. "Mary," He said. It was Jesus Himself! Mary felt so much joy that she started worshipping Jesus.

"Wait," He said kindly, "I haven't been to My Father yet to see if my sacrifice has been accepted. Go to the rest of the believers and tell them that I will go up to My Father, and your Father, and to My God, and your God. Tell them to meet me in Galilee." Mary went off, overjoyed, to tell the others what had happened.

Many of the disciples did not yet believe what the women told them, so they were not joyful. But while they were unbelieving, Jesus went up to His Father and received the assurance that His sacrifice had been perfect.

Later that day, Jesus found two disciples who were walking to Emmaus. He started talking to them, but they didn't know it was Him. All they could talk about was how disappointed and heartbroken they were that Jesus had died. Jesus then started quoting the Scriptures to them, until they understood that everything that had happened had already been written in the Scriptures. In the evening they arrived at their home, and invited Jesus to stay with them. They still didn't know it was Jesus, but they had enjoyed talking with him during their long walk. Jesus accepted their invitation. Just before eating their dinner, Jesus lifted His hands to pray for the meal, and that's when the disciples knew who He was! Jesus instantly left, and the disciples went off to tell the joyful news to the others, even though it was already dark and they couldn't see the way. They were so excited they didn't even notice how difficult it was to get around in the dark!

They walked all the way back to Jerusalem and arrived there during the night, and found the room where the other disciples were staying. At first no one opened the door when they knocked; they were too afraid. "It's us, please open!" they said. Finally, the others opened the door. No one noticed that Jesus came in with them, too. They all started talking excitedly. "He's alive! He's risen! We saw Him!" They joyfully shared what had happened to them that day. Suddenly they realized that Someone else was in the room: Jesus! "Peace be with you!" He greeted them. At first, they were afraid, but Jesus told them to touch Him, to see the marks on His hands. He even ate food in front of them. It really was Jesus, and He was alive!

What had started out as the saddest Feast of the First fruits became the happiest day of the disciples' lives. Jesus was alive! He was risen! He was the true First fruits! And because He rose again, everyone who loves Him and believes in Him will be able to live forever with Him when He comes to gather His "harvest" of believers. Let's thank God that we have such a

wonderful hope. Let's ask Him to help us be ready so that we can be a part of the "harvest" that Jesus will take with Him to Heaven.

Activity:

Option 1: Give each child a copy of page 43. They can color the picture of the tomb, and glue a stalk of wheat on its side. For a fancier activity, cut out the picture and frame it with popsicle sticks, and glue a stalk of wheat on the frame, then stick a magnet behind it to put it on the fridge as decoration.

Option 2: Make a mini wooden bench out of wooden pegs and/or popsicle sticks for each child. Then give the children a strip of bandage each, and let them fold it neatly and place it on the bench, just as Jesus did when He was risen.

Songs

Note: We suggest you include several songs the children are already familiar with; then add a couple of new ones. Sing songs of praise every day, then include songs that coincide with the topic of the day. You don't need to use all the songs on this list; they are simply suggestions.

From "Little Voices Praise Him":

- #52 "The Bible is God's Word to me"
- #75 "Forgiveness is a gift"
- #76 "I'm Forgiveness"
- #86 "God Cares for Me"
- #88 "God is so good"
- #93 "He's Able"
- #98 "It's about grace"
- #99 "Jesus is love"
- #154 "For Me"
- #155 "Jesus died upon the cross"
- #178 "All children need the Saviour"
- #181 "God so loved the world"
- #198 "Happy all the time"
- #209 "Oh, how I love Jesus"
- #210 "Oh, friend, do you love Jesus?"
- #211 "Come Praise the Lord"
- #213 "Hallelu, Hallelu"
- #216 "I have the joy"
- #218 "My best friend is Jesus"
- #221 "Praise Him, Praise Him"
- #225 "Rejoice in the Lord always"
- #226 "Wonderful, wonderful"
- #238 "This is the day"
- #243 "Thank you, Jesus"

Additional Scripture songs:

Music: Marlise Schneider

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only be-
go-tten Son, For God so loved the world, that He
gave His only be go-tten Son, that who ever believes in
Him, that who ever believes in Him, should not perish, but have ever-
lasting life, John 3 six- teen

Diseño ROB

March 2019

Psalm 117 (KJV)

Music by Marlise
Schneider

Handwritten musical notation for the first system. The top staff is a treble clef with a whole rest. The grand staff below consists of a treble and bass clef with piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Handwritten musical notation for the second system. It includes a vocal melody line in treble clef and piano accompaniment in grand staff. The lyrics are: "O praise the Lord, all ye nations praise Him all ye". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

Handwritten musical notation for the third system. It includes a vocal melody line in treble clef and piano accompaniment in grand staff. The lyrics are: "people, O praise the people, For His merciful kindness is". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

Handwritten musical notation for the fourth system. It includes a vocal melody line in treble clef and piano accompaniment in grand staff. The lyrics are: "great toward us, great toward us, great toward us, for His". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

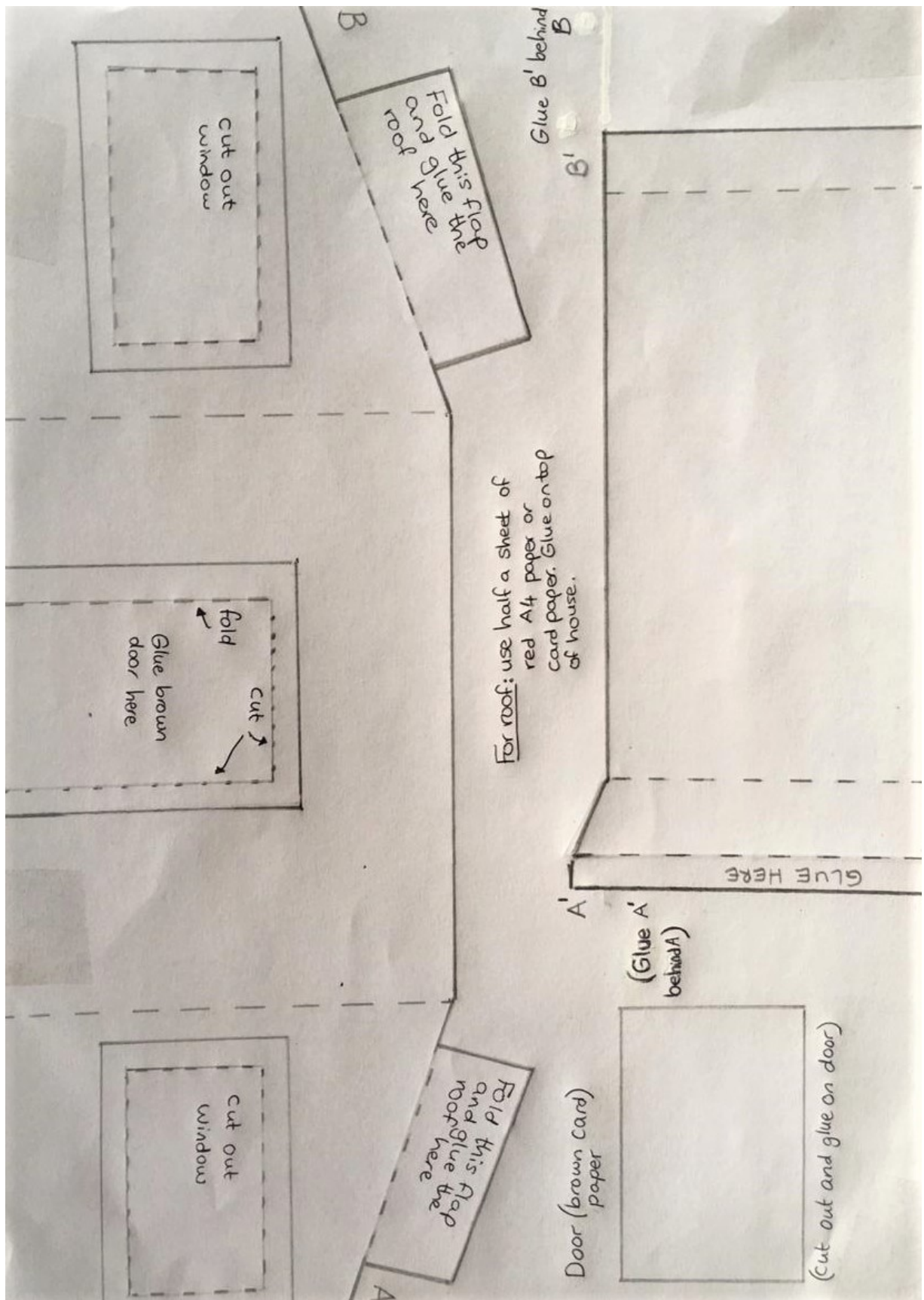
①

merci-ful kind-ness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord en-

du-reth for-e-ver Praise ye the

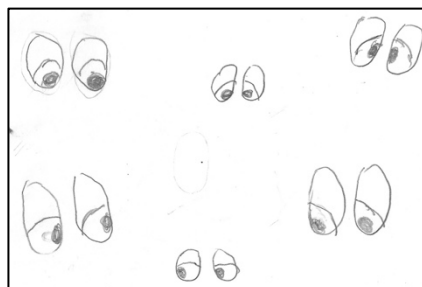
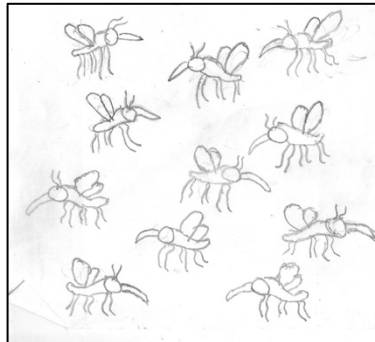
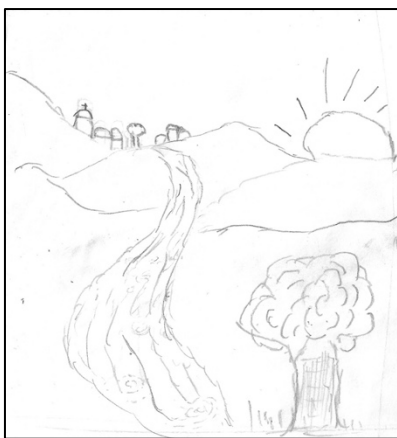
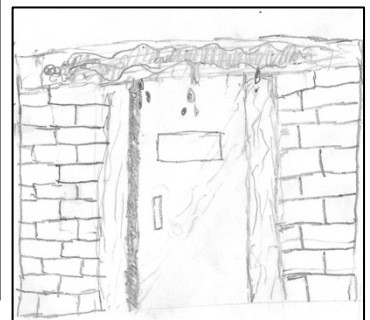
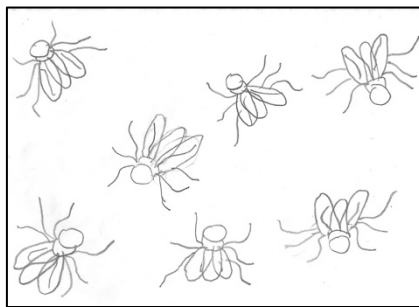
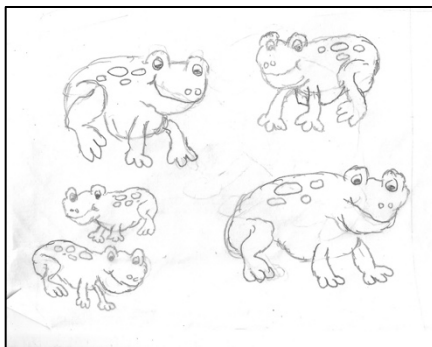
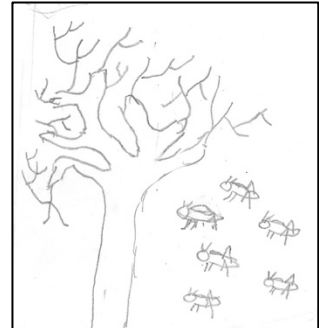
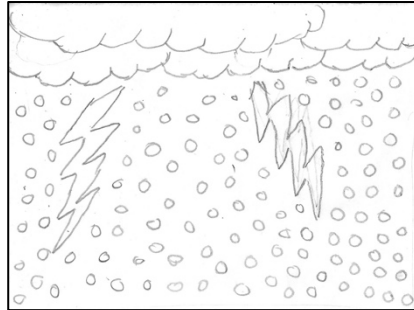
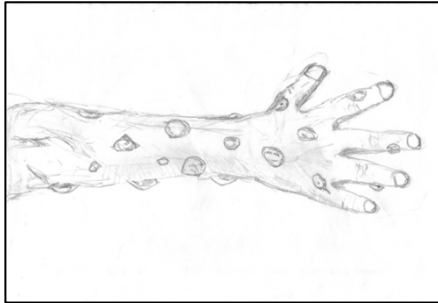
Lord

Activity Sheets



LESSON 1: THE FIRST PASSOVER

I, even I, am the _____; and beside me there is no _____. Isaiah 43:11



Number the plagues in order, from 1 to 10. Color the pictures.

LESSON 2: BREAD

Jesus said to them: I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:35.



Bread is eaten all over the world. Jesus said He is the bread. Color the bread pictures, and glue flour or sand on the them.

LESSON 3: CUPS AND WINESKINS

Thou hast put _____ in my _____, more than in the time that their
corn and their wine increased. Psalm 4:7

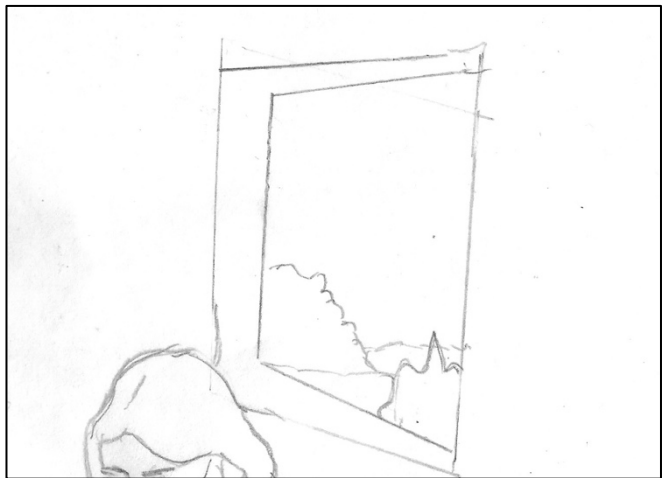
Wineskins were used in Bible times to store wine. Cups were used to drink it with. Color the
wineskin and the cups. You can decorate the cups with glitter and/or stickers.



LESSON 4: THE PASSOVER WITH JESUS

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to _____, and to _____ his life a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet? What was He trying to teach them? Cut out the pieces and put the puzzle together, then colour the picture.

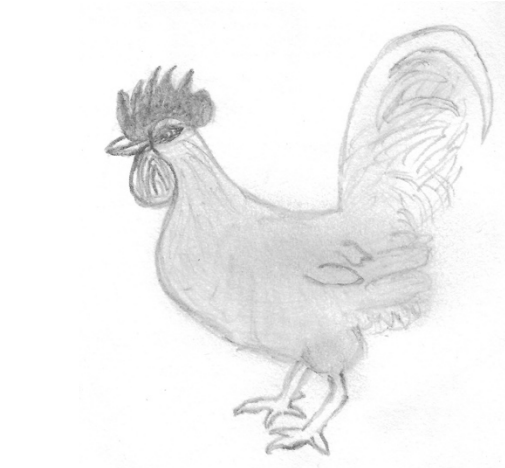
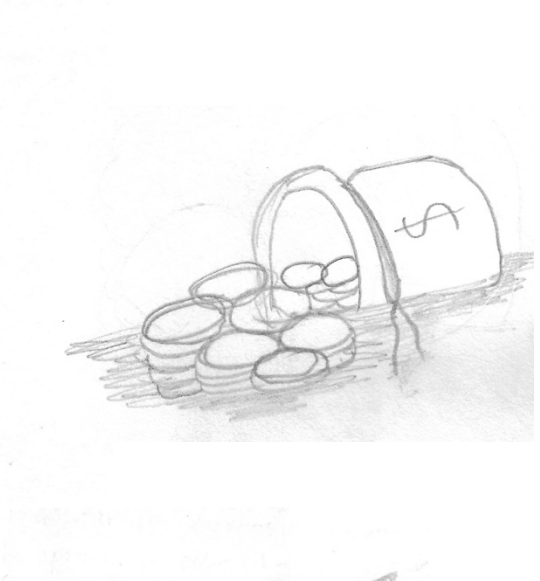
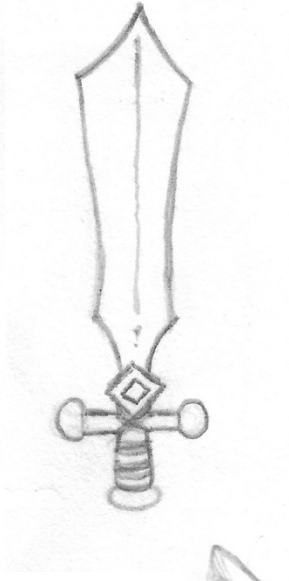


LESSON 5: ABANDONED BY HIS FRIENDS

Greater _____ hath no man than this, that a man lay down his _____ for his friends. John 15:13

What do each of these pictures tell you about today's story?

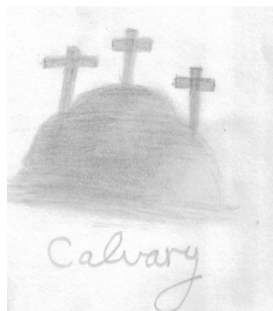
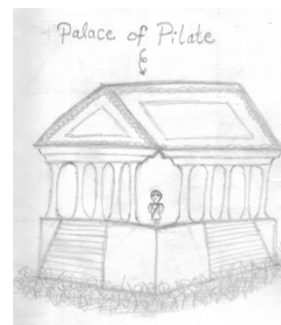
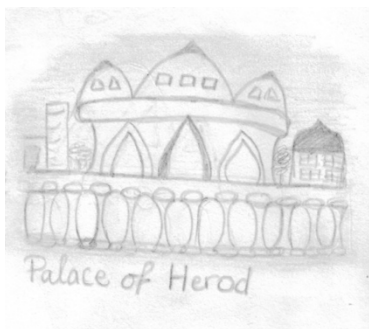
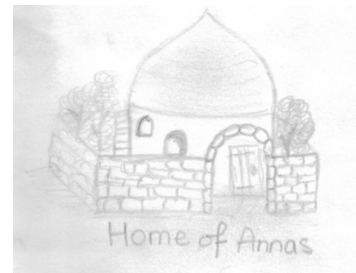
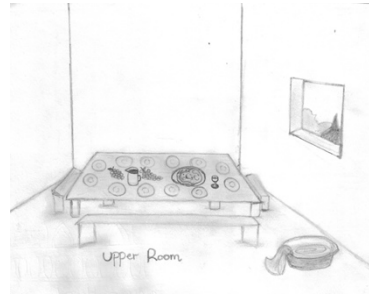
Color the pictures. Glue silver paper on the coins and the sword, glitter on the angel, feathers on the rooster, and leaves or green paper on the tree.



LESSON 6: Jesus on Trial

And you know that he was manifested to _____ our sins; and in him is no _____. 1 John 3:5

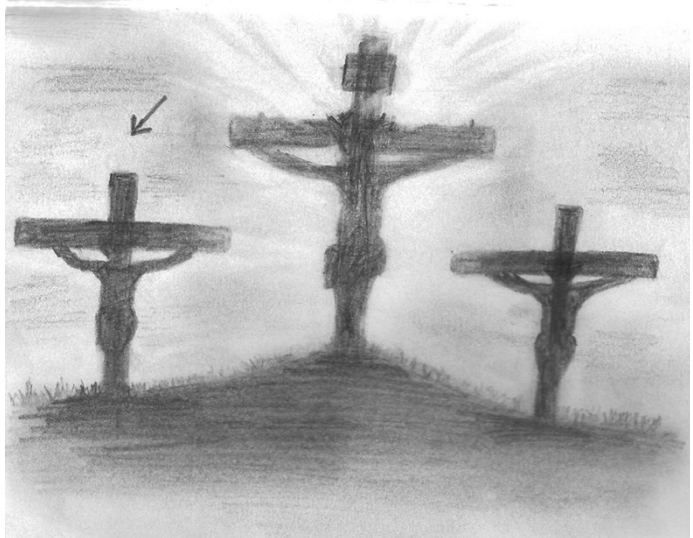
Draw lines to show all the places Jesus was taken to the night before He was crucified.



LESSON 7: JESUS ON THE CROSS

For God so loved the world, that He _____ His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not _____, but have everlasting _____. John 3:16

Color or paint the pictures of the three men who believed in Jesus during the crucifixion. Who were they? Write their names below each picture.





LESSON 8: HE IS RISEN!

Blessed be the God and _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant _____ has begotten us again unto a lively hope by the _____ of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

Color the picture. Stick a stalk or wheat or barley on it, to remember Jesus as the firstfruits of the resurrection.



JESUS IS THE FIRSTFRUITS!