

YCL Easter Lesson Leader's Guide: The Passover Points Us to Jesus

The Origins of Passover: For more than 3,000 years, the Jewish people have celebrated Passover—a time to remember how God freed His people from generations of slavery in Egypt. Today, we will talk about how the Passover story points to the Lamb of God who provided rescue from eternal death and separation from God.

1. In the Exodus story of the Bible (**Exodus 1:11-14**), we read how the Egyptians put slave drivers over God's people to crush their spirits with hard labor. In **Exodus 3:7**, the LORD said, "I have in fact seen the suffering of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their oppressors; for I know their pain and suffering."

Question: How is slavery a source of pain and suffering and what possibility did God's people of rescuing themselves? By definition, slavery involves coercion, violence, and the lack of free choice and God's people had NO chance of freeing themselves from the bondage they were under in Egypt.

2. God's people were trapped in slavery with no way to free themselves. In Exodus, God brings judgment of death against the Egyptians for their cruelty. He instructs His people to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a lamb so they would be spared from the death that would pass over them. In **Exodus 12:13**, God said: "When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague of death will touch you..." After God's people were saved by the pass over of death and freed from slavery, they established the Passover celebration to remember God's protection, rescue, and provision.

Question: Since blood is the life source, how does the blood of the lamb symbolize life and death in the Exodus story? If the blood of the lamb was on the doorpost, then the occupants of the home were protected from death. If they did not have the blood of the lamb for protection, then they were not spared the punishment of death in their home.

3. Thousands of years later, the Bible tells us that Jesus was crucified during the Passover celebration in Jerusalem. After He died, He was placed in a grave, and three days later, "God raised Him from the dead, setting Him free from its power, because it was impossible that death should hold Him prisoner" (**Acts 2:24**). In **1 Peter 1:18-19**, we read: "You were redeemed... with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." Just like the lamb in Passover, Jesus took the place of people—but instead of a temporary rescue, His death offers a lasting solution to separation from God.

Question: As the Lamb of God, how did Jesus rescue us from the power of death? The Passover Lamb in the Exodus story was pointing us to God's Son, Jesus, who served as the final and perfect Lamb of God, whose blood was poured out on the cross to rescue us from eternal separation from God (spiritual death), and we know that it's true because He came back to life in a resurrected, eternal body.

4. In **Romans 5:12**, we read: "When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. His sin spread death throughout all the world, so everything began to grow old and die, for all sinned." And **Romans 6:23** reads: "The payment for sin is death, but the gift that God freely gives is everlasting life found in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Question: What does sin cause and what is Jesus offering us? Sin causes death and separation from God and Jesus is offering us a way back to and eternal life with God if we believe that Jesus died for our sin and overcame death.

5. Please close the meeting after reading the following prayer:

Dear Lord God,

Thank You for rescuing us from eternal separation from you. Just as you rescued your people during the first Passover, thank you for sending Jesus, the perfect Lamb, to take our place and free us from sin and death.

Lord, help us to understand the depth of your love and the cost of our freedom. Open our hearts to receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus. Give us courage to trust you, to follow you, and to live in the freedom you provide.

If there is anyone here who has not yet placed their trust in Jesus, I pray that today they would choose to turn to Jesus, admit their selfish ways, and agree to follow Him. Lord, thank You for your grace, mercy, and promise of eternal life.

In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.