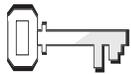


A Night to Remember



References

Exodus 12; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 273-280



Memory Verse

"I will remember the deeds of the Lord" (Psalm 77:11).



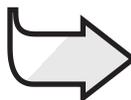
Objectives

The children will:

Know that God wants them to remember and celebrate "grace" experiences.

Feel they are as precious to God as the Israelites were.

Respond by celebrating with their family and their church family experiences of God's grace.



The Message

Celebrations help us remember what God has done for us.

Monthly Theme

God reveals Himself to us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God sends Moses to Egypt to rescue the Israelites from slavery. After nine plagues Moses goes to Pharaoh and again demands that the slaves be set free and allowed to leave Egypt. Pharaoh still refuses to free the Israelites. God gets his attention when the firstborn in Egypt die. The Israelites, and those who chose to listen to the warning, are safe from this plague because they follow God's instructions to choose a perfect lamb, kill it, and use a hyssop branch to spread its blood on the doorframe of their houses. The Lord passes over those Israelites' homes on the night when Egypt's firstborn are slain. The Passover becomes a major annual celebration of God's grace among the Israelites.

This is a lesson about grace.

God's grace is shown in His longsuffering with Pharaoh's arrogance and blatant refusal to free the Israelites. God, who does not want anyone to perish, gives the rebellious ones ample opportunity to accept His grace. He provided the Passover lamb to protect the Israelites from certain death. Thus the Passover became a celebration of God's grace. We also need to celebrate God's grace regularly to strengthen our ties with Him and to be reminded of what He has done for us.

Teacher Enrichment

"Before obtaining freedom, the bondmen must show their faith in the great deliverance about to be accomplished. The token of blood must be placed upon their houses, and they must separate themselves and their families from the Egyptians, and gather within their own dwellings. Had the Israelites disregarded in any particular the directions given them, had they neglected to separate their children from the Egyptians, had they slain the lamb, but failed to strike the doorpost with blood, or had any gone out of their houses, they would not have been secure. They might have honestly believed that they had done all that was necessary, but their sincerity would not have saved them. All who failed to heed the Lord's directions would lose their firstborn by the hand of the destroyer" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 278).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Bread Test</i> B. <i>Did You Remember?</i>	samples of matzah bread and regular yeast bread on plates, Bible none
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	<i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> a toy lamb with a pouch (or attached envelope) none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	adult; crackers or unleavened bread; lettuce, watercress, or other green leafy vegetable; small plates or cups for serving; Bible-times costumes; poster board or cardboard, ketchup, leafy branches or paintbrushes, stuffed toy lambs, paper sacks or suitcases or duffel bags, clothes, other travel items, tape, today's memory verse written in large letters and displayed in a prominent place; cardstock, markers or crayons, self-locking plastic bag <i>Bibles, Patriarchs and Prophets</i>
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>My Friendship Garden</i>	small binders or spiral notebooks (if not available, staple or combine sheets of paper to create a note booklet), markers or crayons
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Share-A-Celebration</i>	materials with which to make a card to celebrate a birthday or friendship

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Ask if they have something to share from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- samples of matzah bread
- samples of regular yeast bread
- paper plates
- Bible

A. Bread Test

This activity compares the tastes of bread with yeast (leavened bread) and bread without yeast (unleavened bread). Place samples of matzah bread and sandwich bread on plates. Invite the children to taste each bread. Let the children vote on which they like best and why.

Debriefing

Say: **In today's Bible story, the Israelites celebrate the very first Passover. On that night God tells His people to eat bread without yeast. Do you know why?** (The bread without yeast was a symbol.) Read aloud 1 Corinthians 5:7, 8. **What does yeast represent?** (sin) **What did the special bread help the Israelites to remember?** (They needed to put sin out of their lives.) **Once a year the Jews celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread and ate unleavened bread for seven days to remind them of their salvation from Egypt and from sin. How would you like to eat unleavened bread for seven days?** (Would like it; wouldn't like it; it would remind me of something very special that happened to me.) **When you take part in celebrations in your church and home, remember this:**



CELEBRATIONS HELP US REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.

Say that with me.

B. Did You Remember?

Sit in a circle with the children. Whisper a sentence of eight to 10 words into the ear of the child seated to your right. Ask that child to whisper it in the ear of the child seated to his or her right, and so forth around the circle. Ask the last child to say the sentence out loud to the group.

Debriefing

Say the sentence you whispered into the ear of the first child. Discuss together how different the two statements are. Say: **This is what often happens.** Ask: **Were all of you sure that you remembered exactly what you heard whispered in your ear?** (yes; sort of; no) **We don't always remember very well. God gave the Israelites a celebration to help them to remember what He did for them. We need celebrations, too, because . . .**



CELEBRATIONS HELP US REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13)
- "Alleluia" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 16)
- "John 3:16" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 24)
- "His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 25)
- "O, How He Loves You and Me" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 28)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission* at <https://am.adventistmission.org/mq-children>.



Offering

Say: **This month we are learning about grace. Grace is what God gives us because He loves us. We can't do anything to earn it; He just gives it as a present because we are so special to Him. The offering that we bring today will help other people hear and understand about God's grace.**

You Need:

- a toy lamb with a pouch (or attached envelope)



Prayer

Ask the children to name any gifts they received from God for which they would like to express thanks. (You may need to prompt them: food, shelter, families, etc.) When you pray, thank God for the many gifts He gives us and for providing celebrations to help us remember His blessings.

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- adult (Moses)
- crackers or unleavened bread
- lettuce, parsley, watercress, endive, or other green leafy vegetable
- small paper plates or cups for serving
- Bible-times costume for Moses
- Bible-times costume for each child (optional)

For every five to seven children in class:

- a doorframe made out of cardboard, poster board, etc., approximately three feet (one meter) high and two feet (.67 meter) wide
- tape (optional)
- small bowl of ketchup
- small leafy branches or paintbrushes
- stuffed toy lambs
- small suitcase, backpack, duffel bag, or large paper sack
- assortment of clothes and/or other travel items

Note: If you have a large class, ask the parents to help supply the suitcases, clothes, and stuffed toy lambs.

Setting the Scene

Divide the class into groups of no more than seven. Tell the children that each group is a family. Appoint or let the children elect a mother and a father and decide on the birth order of the remaining children in the family. (It is very important that each family knows which is the firstborn—the oldest—child.)

Give each family an empty backpack, suitcase, paper sack, etc., and an assortment of clothes. Give the mother a few crackers and pieces of lettuce or herbs with instructions not to eat them until Moses tells them to. Give the father the doorframe.

Instruct each family to find a “home” where they can set up their doorframe. (Suggestions: lean it against a table and have the family crawl under the table; lean it against two chairs and have the family sit on the floor behind it; tape it to the wall and have the family sit beside it, etc.) Be sure each family is established and has erected its doorframe before you begin the

story. Ideally the families will be arranged in an area around the outside of the room so Moses can stand in the center and talk to all of them.

The Story (told or read by Moses)

Israelites! Listen! This is Moses. God has just given me another message for you. I have very important instructions, and you must listen carefully and follow them exactly.

Each family is to select a perfect one-year-old male lamb. In four days, at twilight, the father in each family is to sacrifice the lamb. He is to save some of its blood. Then he is to dip a hyssop branch into the blood and use it to put some of the blood on the sides and top of the doorframe. After that, not one of you is to go out of the house until morning.

The Lord will go through the land and strike down the firstborn in every house in Egypt. But He will pass over the houses that have the lamb’s blood on the doorframe. Do you understand? If there is no blood on your doorframe, the firstborn in each household will die tonight.

Take the lamb inside and roast it and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Eat it with your shoes and coat on. If there is any left over, burn it in the fire. Do not try to save any of it. If your family is too small to eat a lamb by itself, you may share with your neighbor, but both of you must put the lamb’s blood on the doorframe so the Lord will pass over your houses.

Any questions?

Let’s find out what happened four days later.

[Pass out the bowls of ketchup and branches. Supervise while the fathers dip the branches into the ketchup and put some of it on the top and sides of the doorframes. Encourage the oldest child in each family to supervise the job and make sure it’s done to his or her satisfaction, since that child’s life depends on it. When the family is satisfied with that, have them all go into their houses, where the mother will serve the crackers and lettuce. As soon as they are eating, Moses should resume his instructions.]

Israelites! Israelites! Come quickly! The Lord’s destroyer has just passed through the land. Did all of you put the blood on the doorframe? *[Take answers.]*

Has anyone in your homes died? *[Take answers.]* Thank God! Well, the firstborn in the Egyptian homes died; even Pharaoh's firstborn died. The firstborn of all the livestock have died too. Pharaoh is angry! He is finally ready to do what God has asked. He has ordered all of us to get out of the country immediately.

Quick! Gather your belongings and come with me! This is the night that God is setting you free!

[Encourage each family to quickly stuff their clothes, etc., into the suitcase or duffel bag and to gather outside their house. When everyone is ready, have Moses resume.]

Are we ready? Follow me! God is leading us! *[Have Moses lead the children around the room while he continues to talk.]*

God has set us free, just as He promised. And each year we will celebrate the Passover as a special reminder of God's goodness to us. This month will be the first month of our year from now on, and every year we will celebrate the Passover meal and remember the way God delivered us from slavery in Egypt.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What was your favorite part of this story? How did those of you who were firstborn, the oldest in your family, feel knowing you would die if your fathers didn't put the blood on the doorframes? How did your father feel? How did you feel when Moses came and told you the firstborn Egyptians had died? What do you think about eating a Passover meal every year to remember being set free from Egypt? Let's say our message:**



CELEBRATIONS HELP US REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.

Memory Verse

Write today's memory verse ("I will remember the deeds of the Lord") in large letters and display it in a prominent place. Give each child a piece of cardstock and several markers or crayons and a self-locking plastic bag. Ask the children to copy the memory verse onto the cardstock and decorate it. Direct them to cut it into several uneven pieces with one word on each piece to create a custom-made puzzle. When they complete the puzzle, instruct them to store it in the plastic bag, write their names on it then exchange bags and try to put the puzzles together. Bags may be exchanged several times until children can easily say the verse. Puzzles should be returned to the one who made it. That child may take it home and use it during the week to practice the memory verse. Remind the children that this is one way to remember God's Word.

You Need:

- today's memory verse written on banner paper or poster board in large letters

For each child:

- a piece of cardstock
- several markers or crayons
- a self-locking plastic bag

Bible Study

Say: **Our Bible lesson today is full of symbols. Do you know what a symbol is? It's something that represents or means something else. Let's divide into two teams. One will be the "symbol team," and the other the "meaning team." Each team will find and read Bible verses that I tell you.**

Divide into the two teams. Say the first symbol (**Passover Lamb**) and the reference (**Exodus 12:21**) to the "symbol team." The first one in that team who finds the verse reads it. (Adults assist as needed.) Then ask the "meaning team" what the Passover Lamb represents. Tell them to look up 1 Corinthians 5:7. Go through as many of the symbols as you have time.

You Need:

- Bibles
- Patriarchs and Prophets

Symbol	Meaning <i>(What it represents)</i>
Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:21)	Jesus (1 Corinthians 5:7)

Passover	when God passed over Israel's homes
(Exodus 12:13)	(Exodus 12:27)
blood	redemption
(Exodus 12:22)	(Ephesians 1:7)
leaven or yeast	wickedness, sin
(Exodus 12:8)	(1 Corinthians 5:8)
unleavened bread	putting away wickedness
(Exodus 12:17)	(1 Corinthians 5:8)
hyssop	sign of making pure
(Exodus 12:22)	(Psalm 51:7)
bitter herbs	bitter slavery in Egypt
(Exodus 12:8)	(No direct Bible reference; see <i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , p. 278:1.)

better understand and remember His lessons) **Do you like it better when someone tells you a story using things that you can see and touch?** (yes; sometimes)

What did God tell the Israelites to do with the symbols to help them remember what He had done for them? (He told them to celebrate the Passover Feast and the Feast of Unleavened Bread once a year to remind them of how they were saved that first Passover night.) **How do you celebrate what God does for you?** (birthdays, Sabbath, the Lord's Supper in church, Christmas, Easter, etc.) **Let's say today's message together:**

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you think God uses symbols and objects to teach us about what He has done for us?** (to help us



CELEBRATIONS HELP US REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.

3

My Friendship Garden

Purchase a small binder or spiral notebook for each child, or make one by stapling together several sheets of paper or punching holes through several sheets and tying them together with yarn. Make covers with construction paper. Let the children decorate the notebook covers with stickers, markers, or crayons.

Say: **There are many ways to celebrate and remember what God has done for us. If we remember what God has done for us, we never need to feel afraid.**

Today we are going to make a special book. In it we will write words or make pictures that remind us of the wonderful things God has done for us. We'll call our book "My Friendship Garden," because the more things you put in your book, the more your friendship with God will grow, like a

garden. Take your friendship garden home and write in it often. Soon you will have many reminders of God's care. Allow time.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it easy or hard to remember some experiences you have had with God?** (Accept answers.) **How do you feel when you remember? Write or tell what God has done for you.** (happy, I feel I can trust God, loved, cared for, etc.)

How do you celebrate what God has done for you? (tell others about His goodness, sing, do programs at church, worship Him, etc.) **What are you going to remember?**



CELEBRATIONS HELP US REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.

You Need:

- a small notebook for each child
- stickers, markers, or crayons

4

Sharing the Lesson

Share-A-Celebration

Ask the children to think of someone with whom they can have a celebration of God's goodness this coming week and to make a card for that person. Suggest they think of someone having a birthday, celebrating an anniversary, etc. Or suggest they think of someone with whom they can celebrate friendship and God's goodness.

Ask the children to make a card to help celebrate the event or the friendship. Suggest they visit that person to deliver the card. If possible, they may want to give that person a small gift.

Debriefing

Be sure all the children have someone definite in mind for whom to make a card. Ask: **Is God interested in all our**

celebrations, even our birthdays and friendship celebrations? (Yes, He is interested in every little detail of our lives. All good things come from Him.) **What do you think about a God like that?** (It's great to have a God who cares about every little detail in my life, etc.) **Let's celebrate living with God this next week! Invite others to celebrate with you.**

Remember:



**CELEBRATIONS HELP US
REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS
DONE FOR US.**

Say that with me once more.

Closing

Sing "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13). Ask God to help us to celebrate Him especially during this Sabbath, and into the new week.

You Need:

- materials for making a greeting card

A Night to Remember

References

Exodus 12;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 273-280

Memory Verse

"I will remember
the deeds
of the Lord"
(Psalm 77:11).

The Message

Celebrations help
us remember
what God has
done for us.

Are there any special days that you celebrate in your town or country? Perhaps you have a national day during which you celebrate some big event in your country's history. These celebrations help us remember important things.

Moses turned his back on Pharaoh's palace and began the walk back to Goshen, the part of Egypt where the Israelites lived.

Pharaoh's voice still thundered in Moses' ears. "Get out of my sight!" Pharaoh had bellowed. "I never want to see you again." Moses knew the time had finally come. He pulled his robes a little higher and walked a little faster. He thought about all that had happened since the time God had first appeared to him.

He had performed miracles in Pharaoh's court and asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free. But Pharaoh hadn't been impressed. All Pharaoh could think of was what would happen if Egypt lost all its slave labor.

There had been the nine plagues—the Nile River turning to blood, the frogs, the gnats, the flies, and all the rest. Pharaoh had come close to letting the Israelites go a time or two, but in the end he always refused.

Now . . . This would be the end.

They would be leaving Egypt soon. Very soon.

Moses quickly called the Israelites together to give them God's latest message. "Listen," said Moses, "and follow these directions very carefully. Each family must select a perfect one-year-old male lamb. Four days from now, at twilight, the father in each family is to sacrifice the lamb and save some of its blood. Each father is to dip a hyssop branch into the blood and use the branch to put some of the blood on the sides and top of the doorframe of his house. After the blood is on the doorpost, no one is to go outside again until morning.

"It is very, very important that you do this," continued Moses. "At midnight the Lord will pass through the land of Egypt. He will strike dead the firstborn in every house that doesn't have the blood on the doorpost; from Pharaoh's palace to the prisoner in the dungeon. But the Lord will pass over the houses that have blood on the doorpost. Do you understand?"

A murmur of understanding rumbled through the crowd.

"Then take the lamb into the house and roast it whole," continued Moses. "Eat it with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. If anything is left over, burn it in the fire. Do not try to save leftovers. If your family is too small to eat a whole lamb, get together with a neighbor and share it. But both of you must put blood over your doorframes."

Again, the crowd murmured its understanding.



"There's one more thing," instructed Moses. "Eat standing up, with your coat and shoes on and with your staff in your hand. Eat quickly. It will be the last meal you eat in Egypt. The Lord will set us free."

Moses watched as the families headed home to select a lamb for the meal. *This is the first Passover, Moses thought. We will celebrate what God is about to do for us. But we will celebrate the Passover again next year, and then we will be celebrating what God has done for us. We will be free! Every year after that, we will remember God's goodness in leading us out of slavery.*

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go outdoors with your family and read your lesson story together. Then read Psalm 77:11. Teach the verse to your family. Sit in a circle and praise Jesus for His blessings to your family. Sing "Thank You, Lord."

Sunday

- During family worship, read aloud Exodus 3:7-10 and Exodus 12:17-20. How did God want the Israelites to celebrate their freedom from Egypt?
- Use the following recipe to make unleavened bread or crackers: 2 cups of whole-wheat flour, 1 tablespoon of oil, 1 cup of water. Place the ingredients in a self-locking plastic bag or in a bowl and mix to form a ball. On a baking tray, spread the dough to approximately ¼ inch (1 cm) thick. Cut into 1-inch (4-cm) squares and bake for 10 minutes in a moderate oven (180° C or 350° F).
- Use the puzzle you made in Sabbath School to review the memory verse.

Monday

- With your family, read Exodus 12:15, Matthew 16:6, and 1 Corinthians 5:6. What does yeast represent? Read 1 Corinthians 5:7, 8. Put some yeast in sugar and warm water. Watch it bubble up. How is the yeast like sin?
- Put your memory verse puzzle together and say the verse.

Tuesday

- With your family, read Exodus 12:21-28. How is Jesus like the Passover lamb? (See Exodus 12:5 and John 1:29.)
- Make a lamb puppet from a paper sack. On the

folded bottom of the sack, glue construction-paper eyes, nose, and ears. Make an oval-shaped white tail on the back of the puppet and cover the entire sack with cotton or cotton balls.

- Look in a nature book or encyclopedia to learn two new things about sheep.
- Say your memory verse to an adult.

Wednesday

- With your family, read Exodus 12:22 again. Ask someone to help you use a Bible concordance to find other Bible references to "hyssop." List three of the Bible texts and read them. What does "hyssop" represent? (See Psalm 51:7.)
- Draw a picture of a family using hyssop on the night of the first Passover.
- Thank God for caring for you.

Thursday

- During worship, read Exodus 12:23 together. Tell what the verse means. Make a sign that says, "This Home Is Protected by God's Mighty Angels!" Hang it in your house to remind you that God protects your family. Decorate the sign with angel cutouts or drawings.
- Say your memory verse together.
- Sing "All Night, All Day" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 50) to celebrate God's protection; then thank Him for it.

Friday

- During worship tonight, name the firstborn in your family. If you had been the firstborn, what would you have done the night of the Passover?
- Role-play with your family a possible scene on the night of the first Passover.
- Thank Jesus for dying to save us from Satan, just as the lamb died to save the firstborn in Egypt. Joyfully say your memory verse together.