

## Lamb of God

**Memory Verse:** "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29



**Study Plan:** Jesus is called the Lamb of God. In studying this lesson, you will learn why this name was given to him. You will also learn about the Jewish Passover and its connection to the Christian celebration of Holy Communion.

**Step One: What is a sacrifice?** Leader's initials \_\_\_\_\_

In ancient times, many cultures and peoples practiced animal sacrifice. One purpose of sacrifice was to please the gods. Another reason was to make up for mistakes or sins.

The people of Israel made sacrifices of animals, grain and wine to make amends for their sins. They gave up something to God so that their sins would be taken away. It was as if their sins were placed on the sacrifice and taken away. They also prayed to God as part of the sacrificial process. (Note: Jewish people do not practice sacrifices today.)

Today, we sometimes make a sacrifice in order to get something better. You might give up TV time in order to spend time with visiting relatives. Your parents might give up sleep to get everything ready for your birthday party. We also talk about making sacrifices during Lent, the 40 days before Easter. We examine our weaknesses and strive for better habits in order to renew ourselves and strengthen our faith. We make small sacrifices in order to increase our understanding of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us.

When we read Hebrews 10, we can understand better that Jesus was the final sacrifice for our sins forever. Look it up!

Nevertheless, we ask forgiveness for our sins every week when we go to church and say the General Confession. If desired, a private confession can be made with your pastor. The sacrament called "Reconciliation of a Penitent" can be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 446.



Why did ancient people practice sacrifice? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why don't we make animal sacrifices anymore to take away sins? (look at Hebrews 10) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do we do today to ask for forgiveness and show penitence for our sins? \_\_\_\_\_



1. Do at least one:
  - a. Read the General Confession on either page 41 (Rite I) or 79 (Rite II) of the Book of Common Prayer.
  - b. Read the Rite for the Reconciliation of a Penitent on page 447 of the Book of Common Prayer.
2. Prepare a reminder tool to help you practice Christian behavior on a daily basis. You can do small things without drawing a lot of attention. A quiet prayer, a choice to give the last cookie to someone else or an extra effort to be nice. Sometimes when we keep track of our little good deeds, we find we want to do even more! Here are some ideas:
  - a. - Make a stack of Sacrifice Cards and keep them handy- maybe on your desk or on your dinner table. Write down a daily sacrificial intention.

When you do the sacrifice during the day, remember that you are trying to improve your behavior or actions.

At your next meeting, talk about whether you think this kind of discipline was helpful.

<p>My sacrifice for Jesus today is:</p> <hr/>
---

- b. Make a bracelet with 10 or 12 pony beads on it. When you do a good deed, slide the bead over. When you have slid them all to one side, start sliding them the other way.



## Step 2: The Passover Story in the Old Testament

Leader's initials \_\_\_\_\_



### Introduction to the reading:

*God commanded that the Jews remember their deliverance from slavery in Egypt every year by celebrating the Passover with a Seder meal. The Passover celebration reminded the Jewish people that when they followed God's command, they moved from a life of darkness to a life of light. They began a journey to the Promised Land.*

### Read the account of the Passover story: Exodus 12:1-14:

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt: "This month is to be the first month of the year for you. Give these instructions to the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month each man must choose either a lamb or a young goat for his household. If his family is too small to eat a whole animal, he and his next-door neighbor may share an animal, in proportion to the number of people and the amount that each person can eat. You may choose either a sheep or a goat, but it must be a one-year-old male without any defects.



Then, on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, the whole community of Israel will kill the animals. The people are to take some of the blood and put it on the doorposts and above the doors of the houses in which the animals are to be eaten. That night the meat is to be roasted, and eaten with bitter herbs and with bread made without yeast. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled, but eat it roasted whole, including the head, the legs, and the internal organs. You must not leave any of it until morning; if any is left over, it must be burned. You are to eat it quickly, for you are to be dressed for travel, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. It is the Passover Festival to honor me, the Lord.

On that night I will go through the land of Egypt, killing every first-born male, both human and animal, and punishing all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood on the doorposts will be sign to mark the houses in which you live. When I see the blood I will pass over you and will not harm you when I punish the Egyptians. You must celebrate this day as a religious festival to remind you of what I, the Lord, have done. Celebrate it for all time to come. (*Good News version*)





Where were the Jews living when the 1<sup>st</sup> Passover took place? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the people instructed to do with the blood of the lamb? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the people to eat at this special meal? \_\_\_\_\_

How were the people to be dressed as they ate this meal? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

When God saw the blood marking the houses, what would God do? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is the Passover celebrated by Jews every year? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Do one of the following:

1. Watch a movie about the deliverance of the people of Israel, such as *The Prince of Egypt*.
2. Attend a Seder Dinner as the guest of a Jewish family
3. Practice and present the Seder Meal, using the instructions below:

### The Seder Meal

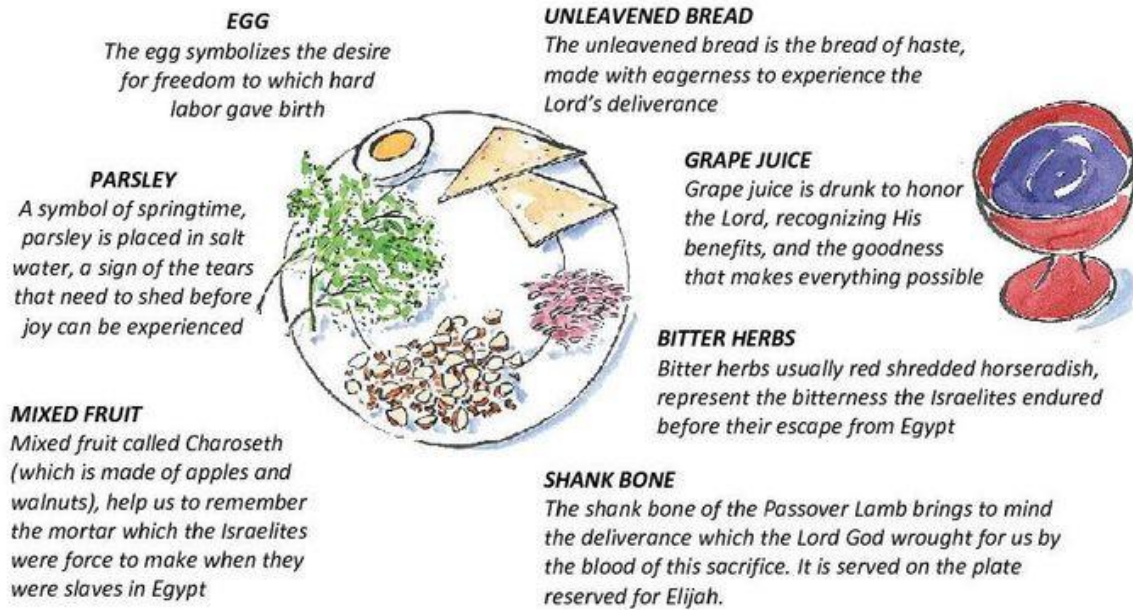
Preparations:

Set the table with a clean cloth, candles, a plate with three matzo covered with a napkin, a Passover plate for each person, a glass for each person, a plate with a lamb shank bone, a carafe of wine (or grape juice), and an extra setting for Elijah. The mother covers her head and lights the candles.

Each Passover plate has

- grated horseradish (or radishes)
- parsley
- a small cup of salt water
- haroset (recipe follows)
- a hard-boiled egg

## PASSOVER SEDER MEAL



The Seder (This is an adapted version.)

*The mother or hostess lights the candles and says a prayer:*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast commanded us to kindle the festival lights. May our home be consecrated, O God, by the light of your presence, shining upon us in blessing and bringing us peace.

*The father then prays*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast given us Thy commandments. In love Thou hast given us seasons for gladness and times for rejoicing, this day of the feast of unleavened bread, the time of our freedom, a memorial to the Exodus from Egypt.

*All say together*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

*The wine is poured, and all drink a cup of wine (or grape juice).*

*The father then washes his hands by pouring water from a small pitcher into a basin, wiping his hands with a napkin, and prays*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who hast hallowed us with Thy commandments and hast commanded us concerning the washing of hands.

*The father uncovers and lifts one of the three pieces of matzo and breaks it in two. One piece is wrapped in a napkin and hidden. It is called the afikoman. Later, the children will hunt for it.*



*The father says,*

Behold! This is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in want come and celebrate the Passover with us. May it be God's will to redeem us from all evil and from all slavery.

*The youngest child asks*

Why is this night different from all other nights?

*The father says*

Our fathers went down into Egypt in a very small number, but grew into a nation great and strong and of an infinite multitude. The Egyptians afflicted us and persecuted us, laying on us most grievous burdens. We cried out to the Lord God of our fathers, who heard us, and looked down upon our affliction and labor and distress. He brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand, and a stretched-out arm, with great terror, with signs and wonders. Therefore, even if all of us were wise and well-versed in the Torah, it would still be our duty from year to year to tell the story of our deliverance from Egypt. Indeed, to dwell at length on it is accounted praiseworthy.

*The youngest child asks*

Why on this night do we eat only unleavened bread?

*The father says*

It is because there was not enough time for our fathers' dough to rise when the Israelites fled from Egypt.

*The youngest child asks*

Why on this night do we eat bitter herbs?

*The father says*

We eat bitter herbs to recall the bitterness of slavery and the miserable existence of our fathers in Egypt.

*The youngest child asks*

Why on this night do we dip green vegetables in salt water and haroset?

*The father says*

The green vegetable symbolizes the new nation the Jews were to lead after fleeing Egypt. The salt water reminds us of their tears when they were enslaved by Pharaoh. The haroset is similar in texture and color to the mortar the Israelites made in Egypt.

*The youngest child asks*

Why on this night do we eat eggs and salt water?



*The father says*

The hard-boiled egg reminds us of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart. The salt water symbolizes the Red Sea the Lord divided so the Jews could escape Pharaoh's army.

*The youngest child asks*

What is the meaning of the shank bone?

*The father says*

The lamb reminds us of the lamb the Jews were commanded to sacrifice the night of the Passover. To escape the last plague, the death of the first born in every family, God commanded the Jews to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of the lamb.

*The hidden matzo is now found, broken into small pieces, and shared and then a festive dinner is eaten.*



**Step 3: The Last Supper = A Passover Meal?** Leader's initials \_\_\_\_\_

**Introduction to the reading:**

*For thousands of years, since the time of Israel's escape from Egypt in the Old Testament, Jews have celebrated Passover every year with a special meal so they would never forget what happened the night they ate the Paschal Lamb.*

*Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover on the day that we now call Palm Sunday. He was celebrating a Seder Supper with his disciples. The Last Supper began as a Seder Supper and ended as a celebration of the Eucharist. While they were eating, Jesus used the bread and wine of the Seder Meal, telling his disciples that these were his body and blood and that, going forward, they were to celebrate this meal in remembrance of him. He commanded the disciples to love on another on this night we now call Maundy Thursday from the Latin word for commandment "Mandatum".*

*That same night, after Jesus and his disciples had this time together, Jesus was brought to trial. Jesus was the final Passover Lamb that was sacrificed to save all people from their sins.*



## Read the account of the Last Supper: Mark 14:12-17, 22-26

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the day the lambs for the Passover meal were killed, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and get the Passover meal ready for you?"

Then Jesus sent two of them with these instructions: "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters, and say to the owner of the house: 'The Teacher says, 'Where is the room where my disciples and I will eat the Passover meal?' Then he will show you a large upstairs room, fixed up and furnished, where you will get everything ready for us."

The disciples left, went to the city, and found everything just as Jesus had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve disciples. While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. "Take it," he said, "this is my body."

Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and handed it to them; and they all drank from it. Jesus said, "This is my blood which is poured out for many, my blood which seals God's covenant. I tell you, I will never again drink this wine until the day I drink the new wine in the Kingdom of God." Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. *(Good News Version)*



Discuss

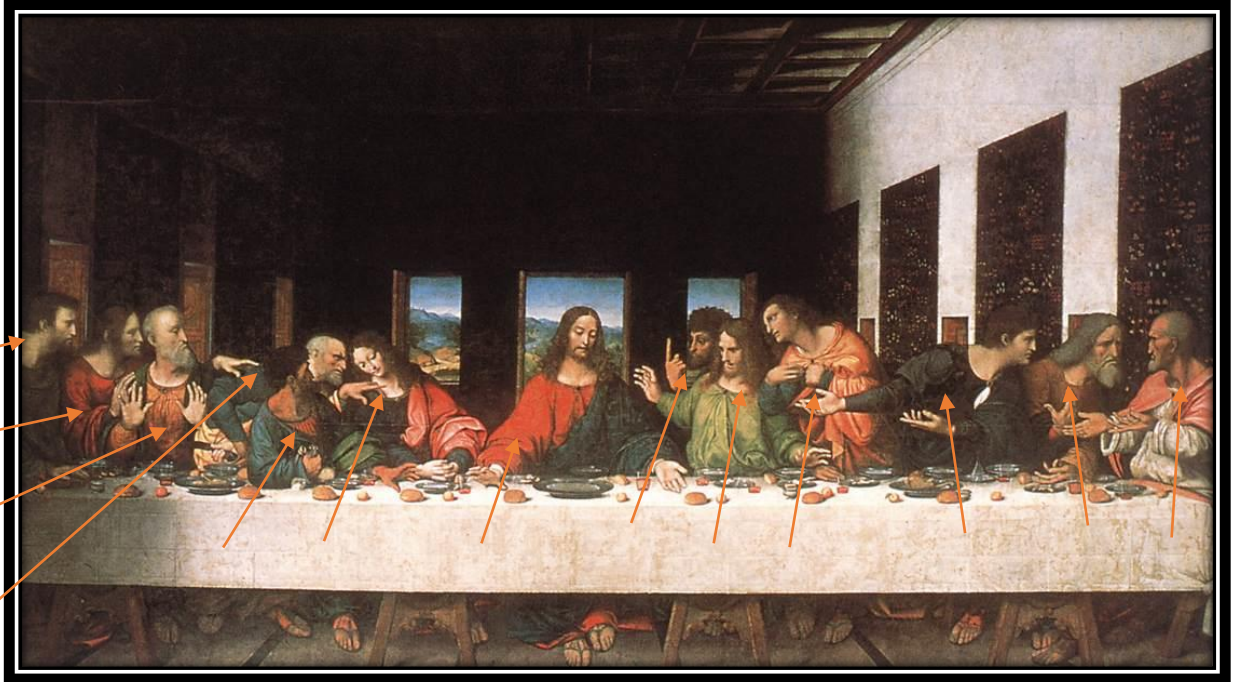
1. Where have you heard these words before? (Hint: Look on page 362 in *the Book of Common Prayer*.) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do we tell the story of the Last Supper each time the Eucharist is celebrated?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How does the Eucharist remind us that Jesus is the Lamb of God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What are some other names for Holy Communion?  
\_\_\_\_\_



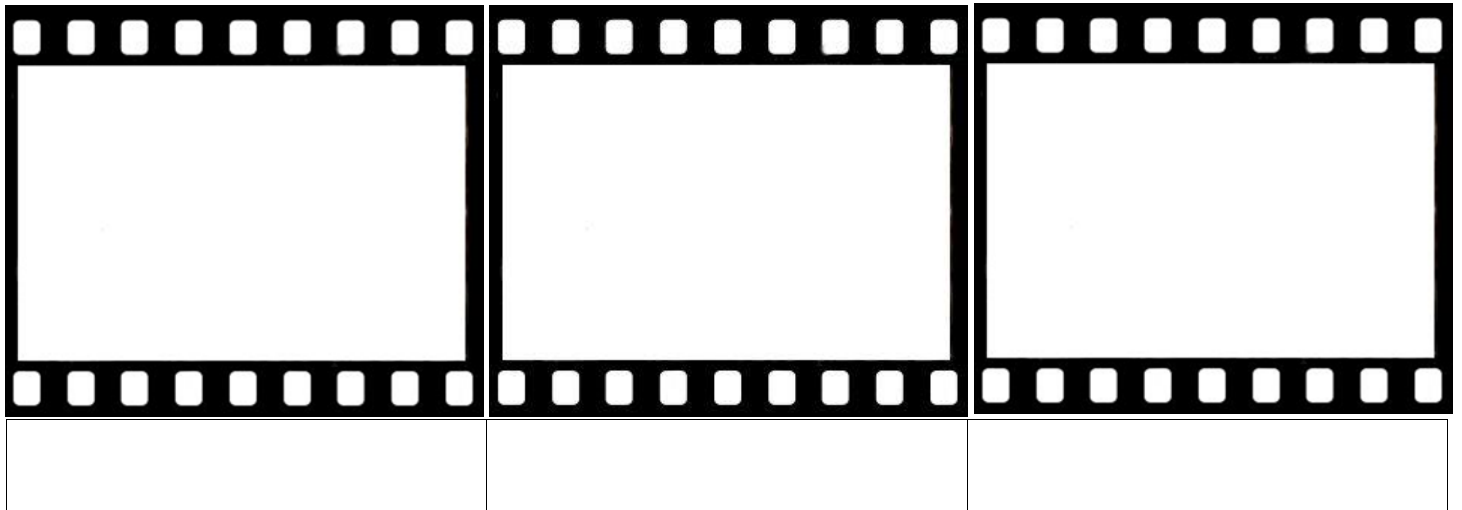


Do one of the following:

1. Look at the Last Supper by da Vinci and identify each person and what is going on in the picture. You can find the answers in the Leader's List.



2. You are a reporter; you have been assigned to cover the Last Supper. You have a camera person along with you, who has recorded the whole event. Now you must pick three shots to print in tomorrow's *Jerusalem Times*. Using the blank film on the page, draw these three shots. i



## Leader's List

### Haroset for the Passover Meal

There are many different recipes for making haroset. Here is one:

3 apples, peeled and chopped

½ - 1 cups chopped walnuts

1 - 2 Tablespoons honey

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/4 cup sweet red wine

Combine the ingredients. Keeps in the refrigerator for several days.

### Last Supper Who's Who?

According to tradition, the people in the painting of the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci are, from left to right:

Bartholomew, James the lesser, Andrew, Judas (holding the bag of silver), Peter, John, Jesus, Thomas (remember he wanted to put his finger in Jesus wound), James, Philip, Matthew, Thaddeus, Simon