

# God's Plan Shown by the Holy Days

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The Passover and the  
Days of Unleavened Bread

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## A Study of Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread

*The purpose of the “Making God Real” series is to help families develop a more personal relationship with God. Understanding God’s Holy Days helps to see the depth of God’s love and how He wants each of us to be a part of His Family!*

*This lesson is not intended to be an in-depth study of the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. More information can be found under “Resources” below. Our purpose is to help make God real by exploring how these two Holy Days show God’s love and care for the humans He created.*

### **Memory Scripture:**

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

### **Objectives:**

- Review Old Testament Passover and Unleavened Bread.
- Compare and contrast the Old Testament and New Testament Passover.
- Explain how Passover shows God’s love for us.
- Explain why Passover is a necessary part of God’s plan for us.
- Discuss our part in Passover and Unleavened Bread.

#### 1. Discuss what your family knows about the first Passover. (Exodus 12)

- What did the Israelites need to do to prepare for Passover?
- Which animal was killed so the people would not die?
- What happened to the animal’s blood?
- What kind of bread did the people eat that night?
- Talk with your children about how they would feel having to kill a lamb in order to keep Passover!

#### 2. Discuss what your family knows about the New Testament Passover.

- Instead of killing a lamb and eating a meal, what new way of keeping Passover did Jesus establish?

**Matthew 26:26-28 (ICV)** Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it and broke it. Then he gave it to his followers and said, “Take this bread and eat it. This bread is my body.” Then Jesus took a cup. He thanked God for it and gave it to the followers. He said, “Every one of you drink this. This is my blood which begins the new agreement that God makes with his people. This blood is poured out for many to forgive their sins.

*Ask:* Is there a lamb in the New Testament Passover? What role does this lamb play?

**John 1:29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

- How did Jesus (The Lamb) die?

*Philippians 2:8* He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

3. Why did Jesus need to be sacrificed as our Passover?

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## Family Discussion

*Ask: Have you ever broken a rule or done something wrong?*

*To younger kids: What if you didn't turn in an important homework paper? What would happen? Could your penalty be a failing grade? Would you be thankful if the teacher decided to forgive you and give you a chance to do better?*

*Older kids & adults: Getting a speeding ticket—and the officer just gives you a warning instead of a ticket if you promise to slow down.*

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How did you feel when someone forgave your mistake or sin? Were you thankful that they were merciful to you?

Jesus' sacrifice is something like that – but so much more important and meaningful! Read the following scripture and talk about how it is similar to the above scenarios:

*Romans 3:23-25* For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

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## Challenge Discussion

*Teens and young adults: Read Colossians 2:13-15 then discuss how these scriptures explain what Christ has done for us with His sacrifice.*

*[Suggestion: tie it in with the "speeding ticket" analogy.]*

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4. Why did God the Father and God the Son WANT to sacrifice for you?

- They love us!

*1 John 4:9-10 (NCV)* This is how God showed his love to us: He sent his one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through him. This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God's love for us in sending his Son to be the way to take away our sins.

- God loves us as His children.

*1 John 3:1 (NLT)* See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!

- Jesus loves us as a friend! His sacrifice as our Passover proves it!

*John 15:12-14 (ICB)* This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you. The greatest love

a person can show is to die for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

- They want us to live with them forever in God's Kingdom! It can only happen because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins.

*John 3:16 (GNT)* For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

The Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread blend together to show God's love for us and how it is that He includes us in His plan of salvation.

## **How do the Days of Unleavened Bread show our role in the Passover?**

The Feast Days connected to the Passover are the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Read the following verses and discuss the following questions:

- What did God tell the Israelites to do with their bread?
- Are we supposed to keep this Feast today?
- What was to happen to anyone who ate leavening?

*Exodus 12:17-20 (ERV)* You must remember the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because on this day I took all of your people out of Egypt in groups. All of your descendants must remember this day. This is a law that will last forever. For seven days, there must not be any yeast in your houses. Anyone . . . who eats yeast at this time must be separated from the rest of Israel. During this festival you must not eat any yeast. You must eat bread without yeast wherever you live.

Whether you are part of a classroom, living with your family, or work for an employer – you know that there are rules that must be followed.

- What are some of the rules that you have to follow?
- What happens to someone who violates the rules?
  - Can be punished.
  - Can be fired from a job or removed from a classroom.
- What happens to relationships when laws or rules are purposely violated?
- How are good relationships maintained or developed when rules are obeyed?
  - Parents say “thank you for being such a good boy/girl!” They are happy, and things are peaceful.
    - An employer is pleased with a worker that follows directions with a good and positive attitude. An employee loves a good boss and wants to do a good job for them.
    - In a classroom, when rules are followed, the class loves their teacher, and they learn a lot and have a lot of fun.
      - In a classroom – one bad and disruptive student can ruin it for everyone. That is why such a student has to be removed from the classroom.
      - Criminals are removed from society and put in prison when they are a danger to others.

Removing a person who did not remove their leavening is kind of like that (Exodus 12:15, 19). Removing leavening is just a type of removing sin from our lives.

This verse helps explain the concept:

2 John 1:9, 11 NLT Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son.

## **Discuss how this concept can apply to any relationship.**

The New Testament verses below further illustrate the principle we have been talking about.

*Discuss* how the following verses:

- Describe what leavening represents
- How Christ's sacrifice removes the leaven of sin
- What we must do as a result of Christ's sacrifice
- How these things develop a close relationship between us and God

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8 (GNT)* . . . You must remove the old yeast of sin so that you will be entirely pure. Then you will be like a new batch of dough without any yeast, as indeed I know you actually are. For our Passover Festival is ready, now that Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us celebrate our Passover, then, not with bread having the old yeast of sin and wickedness, but with the bread that has no yeast, the bread of purity and truth.

When Peter told the people that we are responsible for Jesus having to die for us, the people asked him what they should do . . .

*Acts 2:38-39 (New Life Version)* Peter said to them, "Be sorry for your sins and turn from them and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you and your children. It is to all people everywhere. It is to as many as the Lord our God will call."

Did you ever have a person you wanted as a friend – but they never did anything to show that they like you? In the same way, God wants to be our friend and include us in His family, but we have to show Him that we want to be part of him by following His laws and principles!

*John 14:21 (NLT)* Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.

And THAT is how Passover and Unleavened Bread can help us develop our relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ - and to make God real to us.

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## **Additional resources for your family studies**

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• **Bible Study:** *Passover—The Beginning of God's Master Plan*

<http://www.freebiblestudyguides.org/bible-plan/christ-passover-beginning-of-gods-master-plan.htm>

• **Bible Study:** *Feast of Unleavened Bread—Our Part in God's Master Plan*

<http://www.freebiblestudyguides.org/bible-plan/feast-unleavened-bread-our-part-gods-master-plan.htm>

• **Booklet:** *God's Holy Day Plan*

Article: "The Passover: Why Did Jesus Christ Have to Die?"

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/gods-holy-day-plan-the-promise-of-hope-for-all-mankind/the-passover-why-did-jesus-christ-have-to-die>

Article: "The Feast of Unleavened Bread: Replacing Sin With the Bread of Life"

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/gods-holy-day-plan-the-promise-of-hope-for-all-mankind/the-feast-of-unleavened-bread-replacing-sin-with-the-bread-of-life>

## Questions from UCG Fundamental Beliefs

*These questions are intended to check the parent understanding of the topic. There is one best answer to each question. Select that best answer.*

**1. The word “feast” in Leviticus 23 refers to:**

- a. Eating and drinking at a special occasion.
- b. Special or appointed times or seasons.

**2. When we eat the unleavened bread at Passover, we symbolize:**

- a. Christ living in us by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- b. our willingness to live by the Word of God.
- c. our unity with Christ and with each member of the Body of Christ—the Church.
- d. the broken body of Christ.
- e. all of the above.

**3. The seven annual Holy Days are:**

- a. the same as the seven annual festivals.
- b. no longer required to be kept by New Covenant Christians.
- c. annual Sabbaths.
- d. symbolic of the seven church eras.
- e. part of, and limited to, the Sinaitic Covenant.

**4. Which of the following is a festival of God, but is not a Holy Day?**

- a. Passover
- b. Last (seventh) Day of Unleavened Bread
- c. Atonement
- d. Pentecost
- e. Eighth Day (after the Feast of Tabernacles)

**5. In the Bible, leavening is always symbolic of sin:**

- a. true
- b. false

**6. We can get rid of sin in our lives:**

- a. By keeping all of God’s commandments.
- b. Believing in Jesus.
- c. Believing in Jesus as our savior, repenting of our sins, being baptized and receiving the holy spirit.

**7. Jesus Christ’s life:**

- a. is of greater value than the sum total of all human life.
- b. was sacrificed in love to pay for the sins of all mankind.
- c. makes possible our release from the death penalty we earned by our sins.
- d. all of the above.
- e. almost ended on the cross, but He was taken down from the cross once the Roman soldiers thought (mistakenly) that He was dead.

**8. Human being are saved by:**

- a. the life of the resurrected Christ, as our interceding, empowering High Priest.
- b. the death of Christ.
- c. keeping God's law to the best of our ability.
- d. being predestined to be saved.
- e. works of the law.

**9. The fundamental reason that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was made was::**

- a. the requirements of the law.
- b. the sins of mankind.
- c. God's love.
- d. a and b.
- e. the sins of Satan.

**10. Jesus Christ::**

- a. overcame and prevailed against all temptation to sin because of His superior human willpower.
- b. overcame and prevailed against sin because He was not really tempted by it.
- c. was tempted in all points as we are, yet lived a sinless life.
- d. came to the earth to die for sin, which was unanticipated by God.
- e. would have been our Savior, even if He had succumbed to sin only a few times during His life in the flesh.

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## Family or Class Activities

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*Please use any of the following activities as needed for your students.*

*They are not intended to be used comprehensively.*

Fun resources for younger children:

**1. Poly Col y Toly - Passover - Episode 01**

<https://www.ucg.org/members/kids/poly-coly-toly/poly-col-y-toly-passover-episode-01>

**2. Jelly Learns the Feast Days**

<https://www.ucg.org/members/kids/jelly/jelly-learns-the-feast-days>

### Discussion Points

- The First Passover

*Visual Learning: Show a picture of a doorpost*

*Exodus 12:7* And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

*Exodus 12:23* For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

*Exodus 12:26* And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye

by this service? That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.

- An Ordinance Forever

*Visual: Show a picture of Israel leaving Egypt*

**Exodus 12:14** And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.

*Ask: What does forever mean?*

- The Passover Lamb

*Visual: Show a picture of a lamb*

**Exodus 12:3** Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

**Exodus 12:6** And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

*Ask: What does a little lamb do?*

- Is it mean? Does it bite?
  - Does it do bad things? No it is like a child.
  - It could not hurt anything. It is sweet and innocent
- So there was a need of the blood of the innocent.*

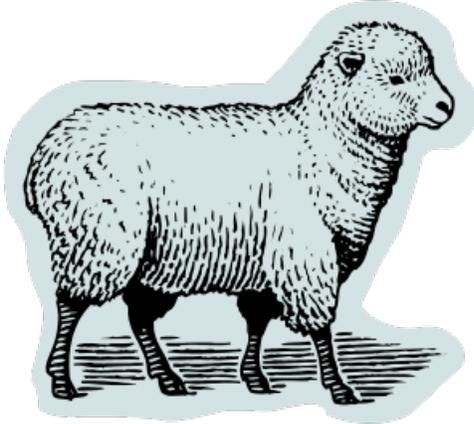
**Passover handout on next page.**

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## Passover Handout

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Name \_\_\_\_\_



**Read John 1:29. Do we have a Pass-over Lamb? Why do you think Jesus is called the Lamb of God?**

**Read 1 Peter 1:18-21. Why did God the Father send Jesus Christ to be our Passover lamb?**

**Why is Passover important to you?**

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## Instructors Notes and Activity: Part One (Middle School or Teen Level)

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### Objective

In a gallery walk activity, teens will:

- Describe sin, forgiveness, and reconciliation.
- Explain how Passover shows God's love for us.
- Compare and contrast the Old Testament and New Testament Passover.
- Explain why Passover is a necessary part of God's plan.

State the topic objectives for the day, before beginning the summary lesson.

**Divide students into four groups. Use a grab bag grouping strategy.**

*Items students can select from grab bags include:*

- Card Decks/Uno Cards
- Geometric Shapes
- Pieces of Candy
- Colored Strips of Paper
- Colored Toothpicks

### Gallery Walk Activity

Assign each group one of the four objectives in the Gallery Walk activity. In a gallery walk, groups of students create graphic representations of their learning and post them. At the end, walk to each posting like a tour group in a museum. As the group moves from station to station, they can: share questions or comments, note similarities and differences, and reflect on what they might do differently if they were to repeat the process.

### Reflect: Instructor's Gallery Walk Poster—The Three W's

The last stop of the gallery walk will be a poster of the Three W's. Each student will choose one question to answer. Make sure all three W's are answered before the end of class.

- What did we learn about Passover?
- Why is Passover important to you? (relevancy, importance, usefulness)
- Now What? (how does this fit into what we are learning, does it affect our thinking, can we predict where we are going)

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## **Instructors Notes and Activity: Passover Lesson (Part Two)**

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1a) Younger group will look at John 1:29 and answer the following with the help of parents:

- Do we have a Passover Lamb? Jesus Christ
- Why do you think Jesus is called the Lamb of God? He is perfect and innocent. He was sacrificed for the sins of the world

1b) Older group will look John 1:29 to identify Christ as the Lamb of God, then at 1 Peter 1:18-21 and answer the following:

- Why did God the Father send Jesus to be our Passover lamb? God wants a relationship with us—He loves us and wants us to be in His family forever. We can live God's way of life. Jesus makes that possible by becoming our Passover lamb.

2) All will do this activity. What does God want us to learn from Passover? Why is Passover important? Children can choose to draw a picture, make a song, include a scripture, or just write something meaningful on the paper.

### **Supporting Scriptures:**

*John 1:29* The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

*1 Peter 1:18-21* . . . knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

*1 Peter 1:18-21 (NIRV)* The blood of Christ set you free from an empty way of life. That way of life was handed down to you by your own people long ago. You know that you were not bought with things that can pass away, like silver or gold. Instead, you were bought by the priceless blood of Christ. He is a perfect lamb. He doesn't have any flaws at all. He was chosen before God created the world. But he came into the world in these last days for you. Because of what Christ has done, you believe in God. It was God who raised him from the dead. And it was God who gave him glory. So your faith and hope are in God.

3) Have every child share their answers.

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## Instructors Notes and Activity: Feast of Unleavened Bread (Part Three)

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*Can be used as a Compass Check or Summary Lesson*

### **Objective:**

- Students will explain an important point or lesson related to the Feast of Unleavened Bread

**Introduction:** Arrange seating in a circle. Check in with youth, ask how their Feast has been going, and state the topic and objective. Then use the “**Here’s How**” activity for students to explain something they know about how physical leavening or spiritual leavening works.

**Here’s How:** Children will pair up. One will provide an explanation or drawing of a procedure - with an example to demonstrate their understanding of the concept. The partner changes or adds anything to their partner’s explanation of the procedures for clarity. Share findings.

**Main Activity:** Give each person an index card. Have them write or draw the most important point or lesson they’ve learned during the Feast. Be sure to emphasize that this should be something that really stood out to them personally. Encourage them to include any family activities or discussions that made this lesson so special (helping with de-leavening, making unleavened bread, studying together, finding leavening, etc.). Provide enough time for every person to write or draw something.

Find a volunteer to share his or her most important point or lesson. Then move clockwise and have each person share their findings. Provide helpful commentary as kids share. Be mindful of which points they have reflected from the monthly study guide. Have each person write or draw 2 interesting points they heard from their peers on the other side of their card. When everyone has finished, provide a short summary of the points that were shared.

**Reflection:** End with a reflection of the Holy Day’s meaning using a key scripture from the study guide and/ or from a recent sermon on the topic. Ask kids how it connects to today’s discussion and have a few of them answer. Tie it into how this makes God and His plan real. If any parts of the study guide were not reflected, provide youth with a question and a key scripture to search out before the upcoming summary lesson. Have them write the question and scripture on the back of the index card.