

# Open Bible Stories - The Passover

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## Introduction

### Key Idea

The story of the Passover teaches us how God protected his people from judgment.

### Core Belief Verse

*"By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them."* - Hebrews 11:28

### God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham.

He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

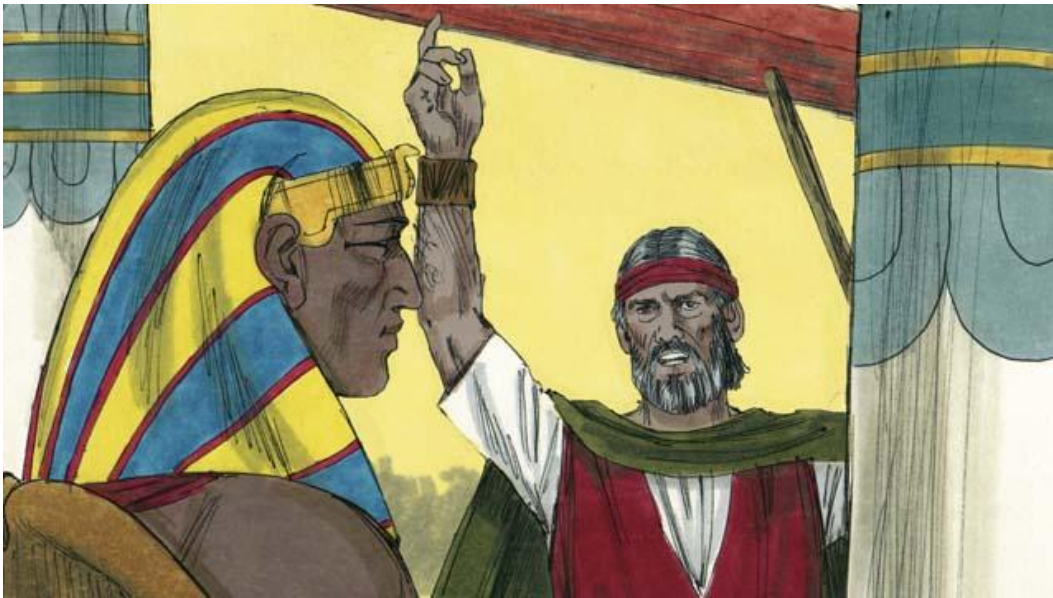
But, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God sent judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

## The Story: The Passover

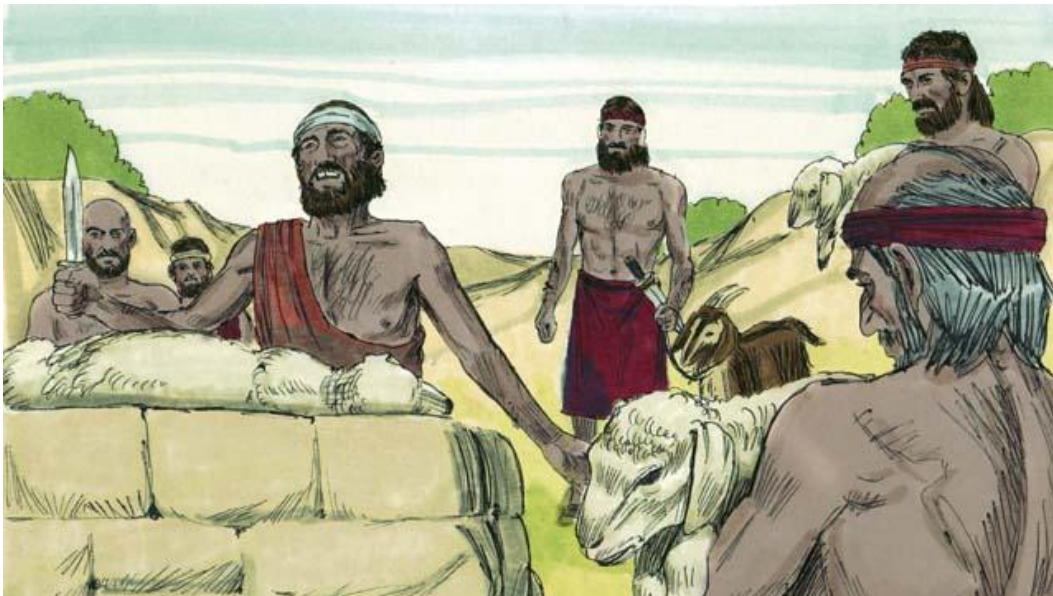
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11-01



God sent Moses and Aaron to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. They warned him that if he did not let them go, God would kill all the firstborn males of Egypt's people and animals. When Pharaoh heard this, he still refused to believe and obey God.

11-02



God provided a way to save the firstborn son of anyone who believed in him. Each family had to choose a perfect lamb and kill it.

11-03



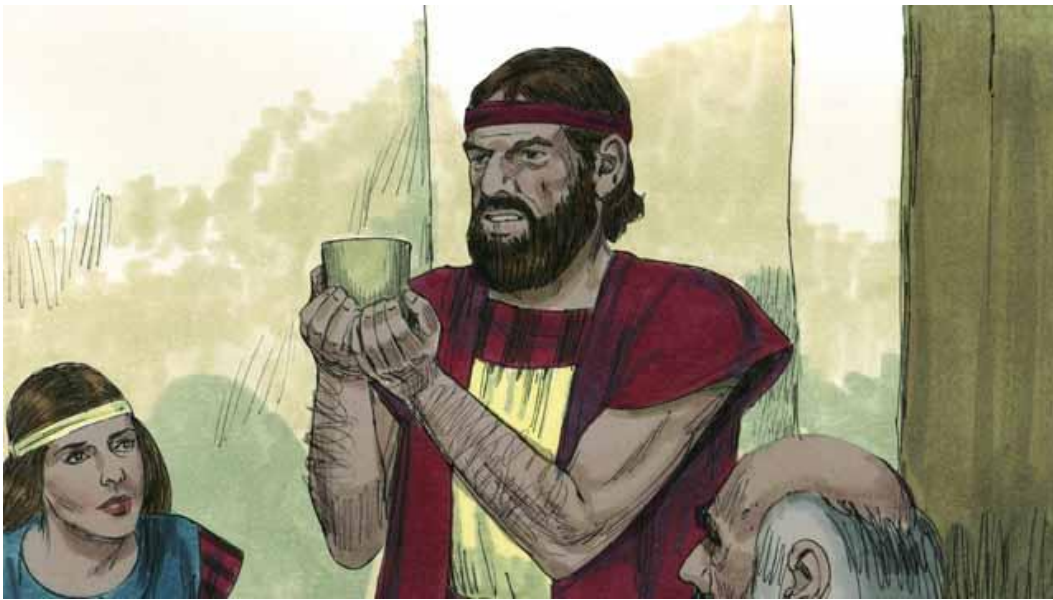
God told the Israelites to put the blood of this lamb around the door of their houses. They should roast the meat. Then they should quickly eat it, along with unleavened bread. He also told them to be ready to leave Egypt immediately after they ate this meal.

11-04



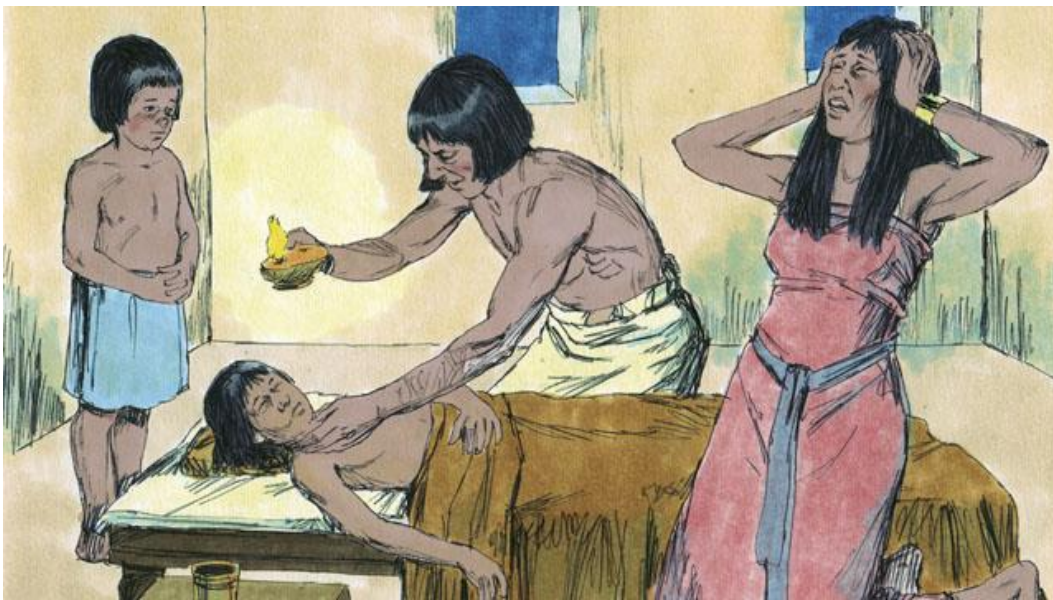
The Israelites did everything just as God had commanded them to do. In the middle of the night, God went throughout Egypt killing every firstborn son.

11-05



All the houses of the Israelites had blood around the doors, so God passed over those houses. Everybody inside them was safe. They were saved because of the lamb's blood.

11-06



But the Egyptians did not believe God or obey his commands. So God did not pass over their houses. God killed every one of the Egyptians' firstborn sons.

11-07



Every Egyptian firstborn male died, from the firstborn of the prisoner in jail to the firstborn of Pharaoh. Many people in Egypt were crying and wailing because of their deep sadness.

11-08



That same night, Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Take the Israelites and leave Egypt immediately!" The Egyptian people also urged the Israelites to leave right away.

*A Bible story from: Exodus 11:1-12:32*

## A Godly Community - Thinking about the Right Things

- **Key Idea:** Focusing our thoughts on things that please God
- **Key Passage:** Philippians 4:8-9
- **Main Session:** OBS 11 (The Passover)

### Recite the Core Belief Verse (3–5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

*"It was by faith that he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn should not touch the Israelites' firstborn sons. Hebrews 11:28"*

### Sing a Song (3–5 minutes)

Choose a song to sing to praise God and encourage one another.

### Read the Passage (5 minutes)

When people follow God, they live in a way that honors God and encourages others. Christians need to focus their minds on those things which most please God. When we do this, we build up a community of faith. In order to learn about godly ways of thinking, read the passage below.

*"8 Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is anything excellent, if there is anything to be praised, think about these things. 9 The things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do these things, and the God of peace will be with you. - Philippians 4:8-9"*

### Explore the Idea (10–15 minutes)

How we think affects the way that we live and interact with others. Use the following questions to discuss the godly types of things we should think about.

1. What kinds of things should Christians think about?

2. How does our thinking affect the way we live and interact with others? How does thinking about such things honor God and encourage other Christians?
3. Why is it important to be intentional/purposeful/proactive about the things we think about?
4. What practices and habits will your community do to help each other think about such things as you work and serve together?

**Describe One Characteristic** (5–10 minutes)

Divide your community into groups of 2–3. Give each group one of the characteristics in the passage above (true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, good report, excellent, to be praised). Each group should try to identify specific thoughts that correspond to that characteristic that would help make your community strong. See the example below.  
True thoughts that make the Christian community strong: God wants the whole community to participate in his work God gifted people in my community in different ways to make the community healthy I should honor community members who do not naturally get attention.

**Pray to God** (5 minutes)

Use the passage above to pray to God. As a community, ask God to help you think about the specific characteristics above.

## **Movement 1: Understand the Story**

*Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.*

### **Observation Questions**

11-01

What did God say he would do to the Egyptians if Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go?

God would kill all the firstborn males of both people and animals.

What did Pharaoh do when he heard that God would kill all the male firstborn people and animals if he did not let the Israelites go free?

Pharaoh refused to believe and obey God.

11-02

Who provided a way for the firstborn son to be saved?

God provided a way to save the firstborn son.

How could people save their firstborn son?

People had to believe God and kill a perfect lamb.

*11-03*

What did God tell the Israelites to do with the blood of the lamb?

God told them to put the blood of the lamb around the door of their house.

What specific food did God tell the Israelites to eat with the roasted lamb?

The Israelites were to eat bread that was made without yeast.

What were the Israelites to be ready to do when they ate?

The Israelites were to be ready to leave Egypt.

*11-04*

How did the Israelites respond to God's commands?

The Israelites did everything that God commanded.

What did God do in the middle of the night?

God went throughout Egypt killing the firstborn son of every family that did not follow God's commands.

*11-05*

What did God do at the houses with blood around the doors?

God passed over those houses with blood around the doors.

What happened to the people inside of the houses with lamb's blood around the doors?

Everybody inside the houses with blood around the doors were safe because of the lamb's blood.

*11-06*

How did the Egyptians respond to God's commands?

The Egyptians did not believe God or obey his commands.

What did God do at every Egyptian house?

God did not pass over the Egyptians' houses. God killed the firstborn sons.

*11-07*

How many of the firstborn sons of the Egyptians were killed?

All of them died, including Pharaoh's son.

How did the Egyptians feel after the firstborn sons were killed?

Many Egyptians cried and wailed because of deep sadness.

11-08

What did Pharaoh tell Moses and Aaron after this plague?

That same night, Pharaoh told them to take the Israelites and leave Egypt immediately!

What did the Egyptians urge the Israelites to do?

The Egyptians also urged the Israelites to leave right away.

## **Movement 2: Theological Questions**

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### **What Does This Story Teach Us?**

1. Why does God bring judgment upon humans? How does the story of the Passover teach us about how and why God brings judgment on people?
2. How does God save his people? What does this story teach us about how God brings about salvation and freedom for his people?
3. How can people receive God's salvation and freedom? How does the story of the Passover teach us about how humans can escape God's judgment and receive salvation/freedom?

## **Movement 3: Live It Out**

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### **Personal Implications & Applications From The Story**

*Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.*

1. How are you growing in your understanding of how God saves and frees his people?
2. What things keep you from (make it hard) believing and obeying God?
3. How would your life be different if you knew God's judgment would pass over you?
4. Think about this week. Where does "The Passover" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of the Passover teaches us how God protected his people from judgment.

## Movement 4: Retell the Story

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*Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.*

1. Can someone retell "The Passover" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

### Church Ministry

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

**Ministry Preparation:** Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. What setting, audience, or approach would you use? Record your ideas below.

**Ministry Implementation:** Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching or lead a discussion. Record your ministry plan below.

**Ministry Reflection:** Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. What went well? What would you do differently? Reflect on your experience below.

## Movement 5: Share It

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*Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.*

1. Who is one specific person you will share "The Passover" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

## **Mission Engagement**

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

**Witness Preparation:** Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. What context, relationship, or opportunity will you use? Record your ideas below.

**Witness Implementation:** Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a natural conversation or teaching. Record your plan below.

**Witness Reflection:** Think about what you learned from sharing this story with unbelievers. What did they respond to? What questions did they ask? Reflect on your experience below.