

**LESSON AIM:**

To explain with an Old Testament illustration how Jesus has become our Passover Lamb.

**KEY SCRIPTURE: Exodus 12****REVIEW QUESTIONS:**

- 1) Who was the boy that was kidnapped by his step-brothers and sold as a slave?
- 2) What big event happened in his life that caused Joseph to become the second most powerful man in all of Egypt?
- 3) What happened when the famine reached Joseph's family back in Canaan?
- 4) What should we learn from the story of Joseph? Review last week's verse.

**INTRODUCTION:**

- Jesus tells us in the gospels that the greatest prophet who had ever lived was John the Baptist (**Luke 7:28**). When John the Baptist saw Jesus for the first time he cried out, "*Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*"
- What if someone saw you walking across the playground and called out: "*Hey, here comes the lamb.*" You probably wouldn't be all that excited about being called a lamb. Why would the greatest prophet whoever lived call Jesus, the Son of God, a lamb?
- To understand why, we need to go back to a story in the book of Exodus in the Old Testament. Have students turn in their Bibles to **Exodus 12**.
- Ask your students if any of them are the oldest or "first born" in their families.
- To visually illustrate this lesson, you might want to have a wooden bowl and a branch with small leaves that resembles hyssop (*see illustration*).

**LESSON:**

Last week we left off with a happy ending to the story of Joseph. Joseph's family stayed in Egypt after Joseph brought them there, and as time went on their family became very, very large! They had now been living in Egypt for 400 years and their family had become a large nation. The current Pharaoh (the King of Egypt) realized that the children of Israel were more numerous than the people of Egypt so he made the Israelites slaves and treated them very cruelly. He even ordered that newborn baby boys be killed. But one of the baby boys, whose name was Moses, was divinely protected, and grew up to become the one who God would use to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.

When Moses went before Pharaoh and asked him to let God's people go, Pharaoh refused. God then sent nine different "plagues", or troubles, against the people of Egypt (*blood, frogs, lice, flies, diseased animals, boils, hail, locusts and darkness*). Still Pharaoh would not allow the children of Israel to leave. Finally, the tenth plague was announced (**Exodus 11:5**): all the first born in the land of Egypt would die. There was only one way that a family could escape this plague. (Have the students read Ex 12:3-14).

Imagine what it would have been like if you were the first born in one of the Jewish households. You have already seen nine plagues, if God brought the ninth, he will surely bring the tenth. This time if God's instructions are not carefully obeyed, you will die. Maybe the lamb that your father chooses is

more than just one of the flock, maybe its your very favorite, your pet. But it's either your life or the lamb's life. Even though you don't really want to, you watch your father kill the lamb.

Watching the lamb die is very hard for you. Some of its blood is carefully collected in a basin. The basin is then carried over to the front door. You take a branch of a plant called hyssop, dip it into the blood and help your dad sponge it onto the doorpost on each side of the door and then over the top of the door (*the lintel*). As you apply the blood, you realize that the blood represents the life of your pet lamb, which is now dead so that you can live. Maybe you even realize that the pattern of blood that you have made around the door forms the sign of a cross. (**Exodus 12: 22, 23**)

Now it is 9:00 in the evening. It is very dark outside. The only place where you are safe is inside the house that has the blood of the lamb on the doorpost and lintel. Many will die this night. Will you? No, because God has said: *"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."* As you lay in bed, unable to sleep, you think of that lamb and how thankful you are that there was a lamb to die so that you wouldn't have to die.

Jesus is our Passover Lamb. He came to take upon himself the penalty of our sins. When we sin we feel guilty and miserable inside. Sometimes we feel like no one likes us. We hate our sin, but we continue to do it. When John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God that **takes away** the sin of the world, he was saying that Jesus could take away our sin and all the terrible feelings that sin brings into our lives.

Just as the children of Israel were in bondage to Egypt, so too are we in bondage to sin. Jesus came to die so that we could be free of the bondage of sin. When Jesus comes into our life, He carries away our sin as far as the east is from the west. After we give our hearts to Jesus, the Father no longer see our sin, He sees the blood of our Passover Lamb.

In **Psalm 103:11-13** it says: *"For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him."*

Let's pray and thank God that He sent His only son as our Passover Lamb, that because of the blood of Jesus we are covered. Let's thank Him that are sins are forgiven and forgotten.

## MEMORY VERSE:

*(Even year):*

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

Psalm 103:12

*(Odd Year):*

"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." I Corinthians 5:7b