The First Passover: The Night of Deliverance

Remembering God's saving love

Ages about 7-11 | Video 4:20 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Israel remembered how God brought His people out of slavery. Catholics recognize Jesus as the Lamb of God and give thanks for His saving gift in the Eucharist.

Learning goals Recall the meal and journey preparations; explain why later generations remembered Passover; connect the words Lamb of God with Jesus and Mass.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Recall Moses asking Pharaoh to release the Israelites. Ask: What important stories does your family remember and tell?

Watch and notice

Follow the Israelite family preparing, waiting, and leaving Egypt. Notice how later generations learn the story and how the final scene points to Jesus.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What did the family prepare for the meal?
Roasted lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs. The doorway was marked as God had instructed.

2. Why were their sandals and staffs ready?
They trusted God's promise and prepared to begin the journey out of Egypt.

3. Why did parents teach their children about Passover?
So future generations would remember how the Lord spared the households and brought Israel out of slavery.

4. Whom do Catholics call the Lamb of God at Mass?
Jesus. He gave His life to save us; in Holy Communion we receive Jesus Himself.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Read prompts aloud. Accept drawing, pointing, dictated words, or spoken responses; avoid frightening imagery.

Read & Write Invite one remembered detail, one explanation, and one response of gratitude. Short or dictated answers are welcome.

Adapt by readiness

Younger children: focus on the family getting ready, remembering God's care, and thanking Jesus.

Older children: read Exodus 12:1-14 and Luke 22:14-20 with an adult. Distinguish the biblical Passover meal and the Eucharist.

Remember and give thanks | Optional 4 minutes

Fold a paper into two panels. On one side, draw the family ready to leave Egypt. On the other, write or draw a prayer thanking Jesus for His love. Share what each panel helps you remember.

Look for understanding The child recalls one preparation, explains why the story was retold, and identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God.

Closing prayer Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, thank you for giving yourself to save us. Help us remember your love, listen to your word, and worship with grateful hearts. Amen.

At home Tell someone at home what unleavened means. At Mass, listen together for the words Lamb of God and thank Jesus.

Handout answer notes Remember: lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs; sandals and staffs ready for departure. Explain: future generations were to remember God's rescue. Respond: accept a simple prayer of gratitude to Jesus.

Teach with care

Preview the whole story, especially the grief scene. Have a Bible, paper, pencils, and crayons. This is a discussion and drawing lesson, not a ritual reenactment. The story includes slavery, animal sacrifice and blood, and the deaths of Egypt's firstborn, including children; families grieve. Explain gently and avoid graphic reenactments. Do not teach that ordinary illness or bereavement proves wrongdoing. Respect the dignity of every people. Passover remains a living Jewish observance; distinguish its Jewish meaning from Catholic teaching about Jesus. Do not stage a pretend seder or Eucharist. At Mass Christ's one saving sacrifice is made present, not repeated as a new sacrifice.

Words to explain Deliverance: being rescued or set free. Unleavened: made without yeast. Passover: Israel's sacred remembrance of God's rescue from Egypt. Eucharist: the sacrament in which Jesus gives us His Body and Blood.

Sources for the leader

Scripture: The first Passover and departure - Exodus 12

Scripture: Jesus at the Last Supper - Luke 22

Catholic teaching: Catechism: the Eucharistic celebration, 1345-1355