

Lectionary Edition

Sunday 6th September

Second Sunday of

Kingdomtide

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Passover.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Exodus 12:1-14

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we will be thinking about at church this week are:

Psalm 149
Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Passover, the night when you led your people out of slavery in Egypt. We thank you that you still protect and save us today.

We thank you for Jesus who was led like an innocent lamb to death for us. We thank you that because Jesus' blood was shed our sins can be forgiven and we will not be punished but will be your friends forever.

We pray for all our friends and family who don't know yet know you as their friend that they would respond to the Good News about Jesus.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What was the sign for God that He should pass over a house?

The blood on the doorframe was a sign to God that He should pass over and not harm the people who lived there. In the Old Testament (the part of the Bible before Jesus arrived) we see many examples of a blood sacrifice being made to ask God for forgiveness. When Jesus died he was the ultimate Passover lamb, his blood was shed so that we can be forgiven and protected from the punishment that we deserve forever. Passover festival continued to be celebrated by God's people to remind them of this part of their story, in fact it was being marked the week that Jesus died.

Some questions for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when God helped to bring you out of a difficult situation?

Family Activity 1

Pharaoh really did not want to let God's people leave Egypt even though Moses repeatedly asked on God's behalf. Each time Pharaoh said no, God sent a plague against the people of Egypt. The death of the first born was the final plague, when his eldest son died Pharaoh finally called for Moses and told him that Gods people could leave Egypt.

Play "Escape from Egypt" the game which you can find on page 3, you will need a dice and counters to mark your progress. If you don't have access to a printer why not make your own giant game by laying out pieces of paper and writing the instructions on them, you could be the counters and make your way around the board!



A verse to remember

Exodus 12 v 14 You are always to remember this day and celebrate it with a feast to the Lord.

The Passover feast was not something that God's people did once and never again, they celebrated it every year as a reminder of what God had done to save them from the Egyptians. During Passover the story of how God brought them out of Egypt is told, traditionally the story is told not as something as which happened in the past but brought to life so that all those listening feel like they were there and that they too have been brought out of slavery. The Passover meal is multi-sensory with different activities and tastes used to help bring the story to life. Jewish families still celebrate Passover today and some Christians too. Perhaps you could think of a way to bring the story of Jesus to life in a multi-sensory way to share with others.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Active Prayer

You will need: post it notes or paper/Sellotape/Blu tack

Spend some time writing or drawing on the post it notes some of the many promises of God or words that describe how God feels towards us. e.g. loving, kind, generous, forgiving.

Carefully work together to stick all the words around a door frame in your home. Remember the blood that God's people put on their door frames.

Thank God that he is our covering and protection. Challenge everybody that this week, every time you pass through the doorframe, you pause and say a thank you prayer to God for all his promises and goodness.



Family Activity 2

Why not hold your own thank you meal together? Plan a meal which you can all share – each person should bring and share a story about something that God has done for them or something they know about God's love for them.

Work together to plan a menu that reminds you of who God is and his love for us. Here are some ideas which you could include...

Grape Juice or Blackcurrant Squash

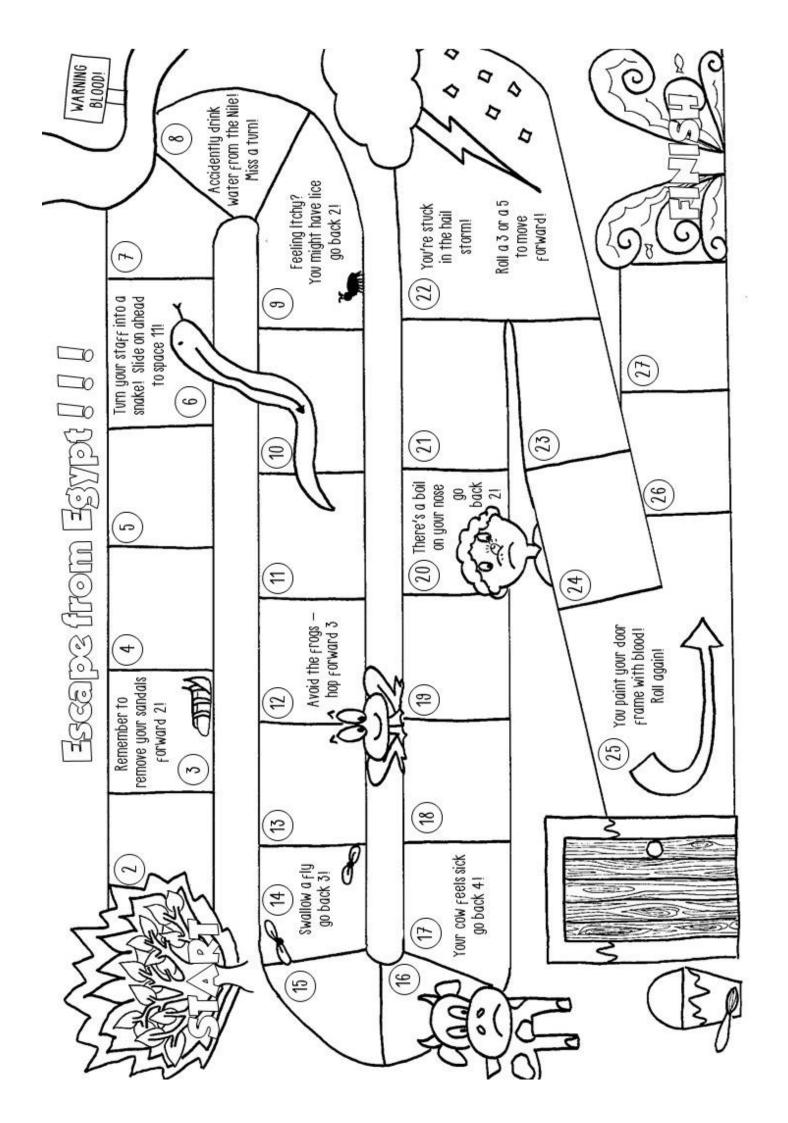
As you pour the drinks you could talk about the wine we have at communion which represents Jesus' blood. Together you could think about the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross.

Something bitter

In the Passover meal bitter herbs are tasted as a reminder of difficult times. Why not challenge everybody to try something that they don't like the taste of before you eat the nice bit of the meal, you could share about a time when you faced a challenge but God brought you through.

Birthday Cake

Why not finish with a celebration pudding, talk about the things we celebrate and mark every year. What do we do each year to remember the Good News of Jesus?



A colouring page you could print and colour together

Exodus [2 v [4]
You are always to remember this
day and celebrate it with a feast to
the Lord.

