

THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD®

# CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



SPECIAL FEAST LESSON

LEVEL 2



THE SPRING FEASTS

# The Spring Festivals

**S**pring is one of four seasons and is the transition from winter to summer. Daylight hours are 12 hours or more, causing the Earth to become warmer. This triggers new plants to spring forth out of the ground, giving the season its name. Snow melts, and rivers and streams grow bigger with runoff and spring rains. Many flowering plants bloom, and baby animals are born. The first month of God's calendar begins during this exciting time of new life!

The Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost are festivals that God's people observe each spring. They represent the first three steps in God's awesome Plan for all who have ever lived. Do you know why God created man? The answer is amazing beyond belief! God wants all people who have ever lived to become members of His divine

Family! To learn how we may become part of God's Family, we must look closely at the annual or yearly festivals. In this lesson, we will learn about the first three festivals in God's great Plan.

## **Passover in Egypt**

Thousands of years ago, the Israelites were slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years. They were forced to work very hard. They were beaten when the Egyptians were not pleased with their work.

God saw the Israelites' misery and knew that it was time for Him to keep His promise and deliver His people. Moses was chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

Moses and his brother Aaron were sent by God to speak to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. They told Pharaoh to

let the Israelites leave Egypt. But instead of letting them go, he gave them more work to do!

God had Moses and Aaron meet with Pharaoh again and warn him of the horrifying plagues

that would  
come  
upon

Egypt if he  
would not let  
the Israelites  
go. Pharaoh  
still said no,  
so God  
sent nine  
plagues

that devastated the land. Even after all of this, Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go!

God had Moses tell the Israelites what they had to do to be protected from the final plague.

“On the tenth day of Abib (the first month), every man must choose from his flocks a healthy male lamb,” Moses instructed. “The lamb

must be under a year old and without bruises and marks.

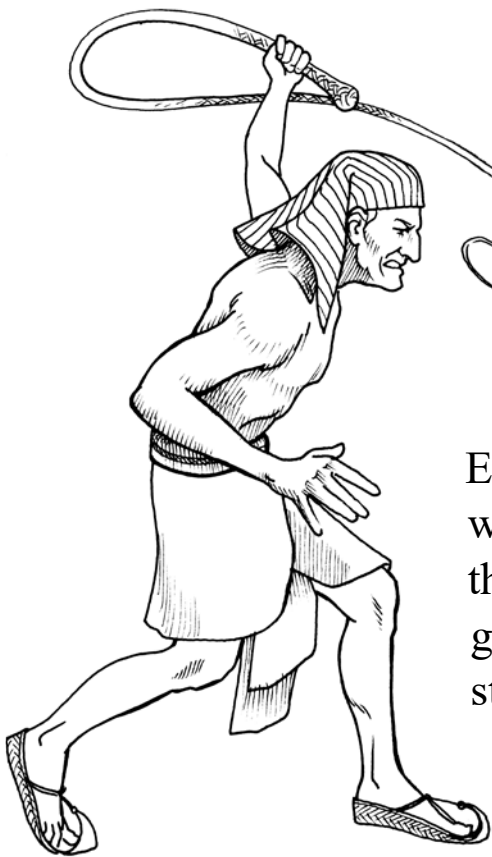
“Care for the lamb until the fourteenth day. Then, at evening, kill the lamb and put some of its blood on the top and sides of the doorposts of your house.

“Roast the entire lamb and eat it quickly with bitter herbs and unleavened bread,” Moses said. “Make sure that you do not eat it boiled or raw. Also, if your family is not big enough to eat the whole lamb, share it with your neighbor.

“When you eat the lamb, everyone must be dressed as if going on a trip,” Moses continued. “Wear sandals on your feet and hold a staff. But be sure that no one leaves the house.

“Eat in a hurry. Burn any part of the lamb that you do not eat, and do not keep any of it until the morning.”

Moses then told the Israelites what they would be protected from if they





followed God's instructions.

"An angel will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and kill all the firstborn of man and animals. But when the angel sees blood on the

doorposts of your homes, he will *pass over* you. No one will be harmed. This day is called the Lord's Passover.

"It is a memorial to be kept forever. It must be observed every spring to help us remember how God protected our firstborn," Moses explained. Read Exodus 12:1-14.

On the fourteenth day, the Israelites did as they were commanded, and none of their firstborn were killed. But all the firstborn of the Egyptians were killed, including Pharaoh's son!

Pharaoh finally changed his mind and told Moses that he would let them leave Egypt.

In the morning, the Israelites asked the Egyptians to give them gold, silver and clothing. The

Egyptians were eager for the Israelites to leave, so they gave them everything they wanted.

## Passover Today

The Israelites were to keep the Passover every year, from generation to generation.





Did you know that those in God's Church today, thousands of years later, still keep the Passover? But it is not observed in the same way that the children of Israel in Egypt observed it.

The Israelites who kept the first Passover did not realize that it portrayed the first part in God's Plan for mankind. The Passover lamb they killed represented Jesus Christ. John 1:29 says that Jesus is the "Lamb of God." I Corinthians 5:7 states that He is "our passover." More than a thousand years after the first Passover, He came to Earth as a flesh-and-blood human being.

When Jesus Christ was about 33 years old, He was killed so that our sins and those of all mankind could be forgiven. Before His death, He observed the Passover, as He did every year, with His disciples. He did not keep the Passover the same way that the Israelites did, howev-

er, because a lamb was no longer to be killed.

Christ taught His disciples a new way to keep the Passover. First, He wrapped a towel around His waist. Then, after pouring water into a basin, He washed and dried His disciples' feet. He described how the footwashing service teaches us to love and serve one another.

After Jesus Christ took unleavened bread and broke it, the disciples ate it. Then He gave them wine to drink.

### **The Importance of Bread and Wine**

Jesus Christ was crucified (killed) on the Passover. This is why it is a very solemn and serious day. His crucifixion was extremely painful. After being beaten, He was nailed to a stake and left to die. Why did such a terrible event have to take place?

God tells us in His Word, the Bible, that all people have sinned, or broken His Ten Commandments. God says in Romans 6:23 that the punishment for sin is eternal death—death forever! But God has a Plan that saves us from the punish-





ment of sin. His Plan allows us to receive *eternal life*—life forever—as members of His Family!

Only Christ could pay the price for the sins of all mankind because He was God (the other member of the God Family) before He came to Earth as a human being. Because He was the Creator of all life, His life was worth more than the total sum of all mankind. In addition, Jesus Christ was perfect—He never sinned. He did not deserve death. As the “Lamb of God” He sacrificed (gave up) His life to pay for the sins of mankind. As a result of His death, God can forgive our sins when we repent of them.

So the broken, unleavened bread eaten during the Passover service represents Christ’s cut and bruised

body. Eating this bread helps us remember that God will heal us of our health problems (read I Peter 2:22, 24). Christ suffered terribly to pay the penalty for our sins.

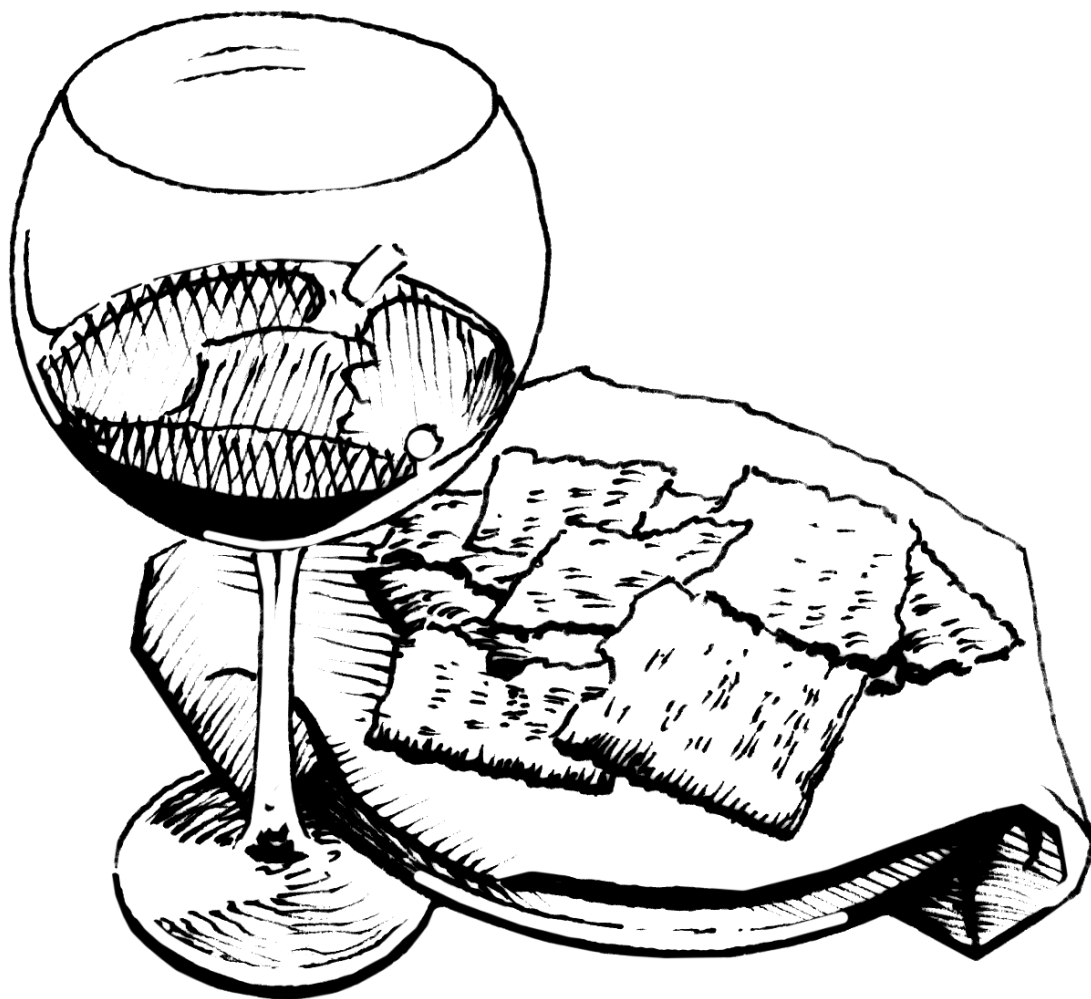
The wine during the Passover service represents Christ’s blood that poured from His body, resulting in His death. Taking of the wine helps us to remember that Christ’s death makes possible the forgiveness of our sins.

## **Days of Unleavened Bread**

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is the second step in God’s Plan. It begins on the day after the Passover. During these seven days, we eat unleavened bread—a flat bread that is not made with yeast or leavening.

Do you know what leavening does to foods such as bread, pancakes and cookies? It puffs them up!

And what do you and your parents do during the days and weeks before the Days of Unleavened



Bread? You are probably very careful to remove leavening from your home and other areas that belong to you. We do this because it is commanded by God. On a separate sheet of paper, make a list of all the places where you look for leaven.

We put leavening out of our houses during the Days of Unleavened Bread because it pictures *sin*. Leavening puffs bread up just as sin puffs us up! One sin often leads to more sins. An example of this is covering up (lying



about) something that your parents told you not to do. Sin spreads just as leaven does.

The Days of Unleavened Bread remind us to put sin out of our lives just as we put leavening out of our homes. We must always try to obey God's laws.

During the daylight hours of the fifteenth day of the month of Abib, the Israelites asked the Egyptians to give them valuable items. Then they began their journey out of Egypt.

Can you imagine the joy that they felt? God delivered them from slavery!

The first and seventh days during the Days of Unleavened Bread are Holy Days. God commands us not to work. We are to assemble together at special Sabbath services. His people are to observe these Holy Days forever (Exodus 12:17).

The Night to Be Much Observed takes place at the beginning of the Days of Unleavened Bread and is commanded by God (Exodus 12:42). It helps us to remember the Israelites' journey out of, or *exodus* from, Egypt thousands of years ago.

## **Pentecost**

Pentecost is the third festival and it portrays the third step in God's Plan. To determine on which day we should keep this feast, we count fifty. (Pentecost means the fiftieth day.)

Pentecost is the anniversary of the beginning of God's Church. On the day of Pentecost in 31 AD, God sent His Holy Spirit to Christ's disciples. This was exactly fifty days after the Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

The Holy Spirit is a special gift that God gives to those who have repented, been baptized, and had hands laid on them by one of God's ministers. God puts His Holy Spirit in the minds of new members of His Church. It gives them the ability to overcome (conquer or defeat) sin, understand God's truth, and grow in His character (become more like Him).

There are two harvests each year in the Holy Land, where Jesus Christ lived. The spring grain harvest happens first and is the early or small harvest. The great fall harvest comes next.





For now, God has called only a few people out of the world and placed them into His Church. To God, the world is like a big field or garden. Part of the garden will be harvested when the Kingdom arrives. These “first-fruits” will be the first ones to be resurrected (raised from the dead) and changed to spirit beings. They will then be born into the Family of God!

After Christ returns, the rest of the world will also have the opportunity to become members of God’s Family over

Pentecost occurs at the time of the spring harvest and pictures the first spiritual “harvest” of people who will become members in God’s Family. These “firstfruits” include members who were, are and will be in God’s Church before Christ returns to Earth.

time. This big fall “harvest” includes the largest part of mankind who will have been taught God’s way of life. They will be born into His Family!

We will learn more about God’s awesome Plan for mankind in the Fall Festival Lesson.

# GOD'S GREAT PLAN

If you follow the directions, you will find out what God gives us so we can understand His great Plan for mankind.

D	F	A	S	E	X	S	N	M	P	H	H	G	U	T
E	A	N	T	G	V	L	S	O	B	U	W	O	U	E
A	K	G	U	Y	W	A	B	S	Y	J	N	D	L	N
T	T	E	B	P	P	V	M	E	H	Q	Q	G	A	H
H	J	L	V	T	X	E	V	S	I	N	P	U	W	J
F	S	U	G	N	C	F	R	A	Q	C	G	U	H	B
R	K	H	H	B	X	B	J	S	H	S	Y	A	L	L
O	U	U	F	R	H	L	E	O	E	A	Q	T	A	S
A	S	R	I	E	X	O	Q	N	O	W	F	E	Z	J
S	E	R	P	A	C	O	L	M	U	G	U	J	H	O
T	K	Y	U	D	Q	D	Q	L	T	C	O	W	A	Y

First color all boxes with Ks blue, all Xs green, and all Zs red. Then color the boxes of the words listed below as indicated.

## BLUE

ROAST  
HURRY  
DEATH  
ANGEL

## GREEN

BLOOD  
EGYPT  
SLAVE  
BREAD

## YELLOW

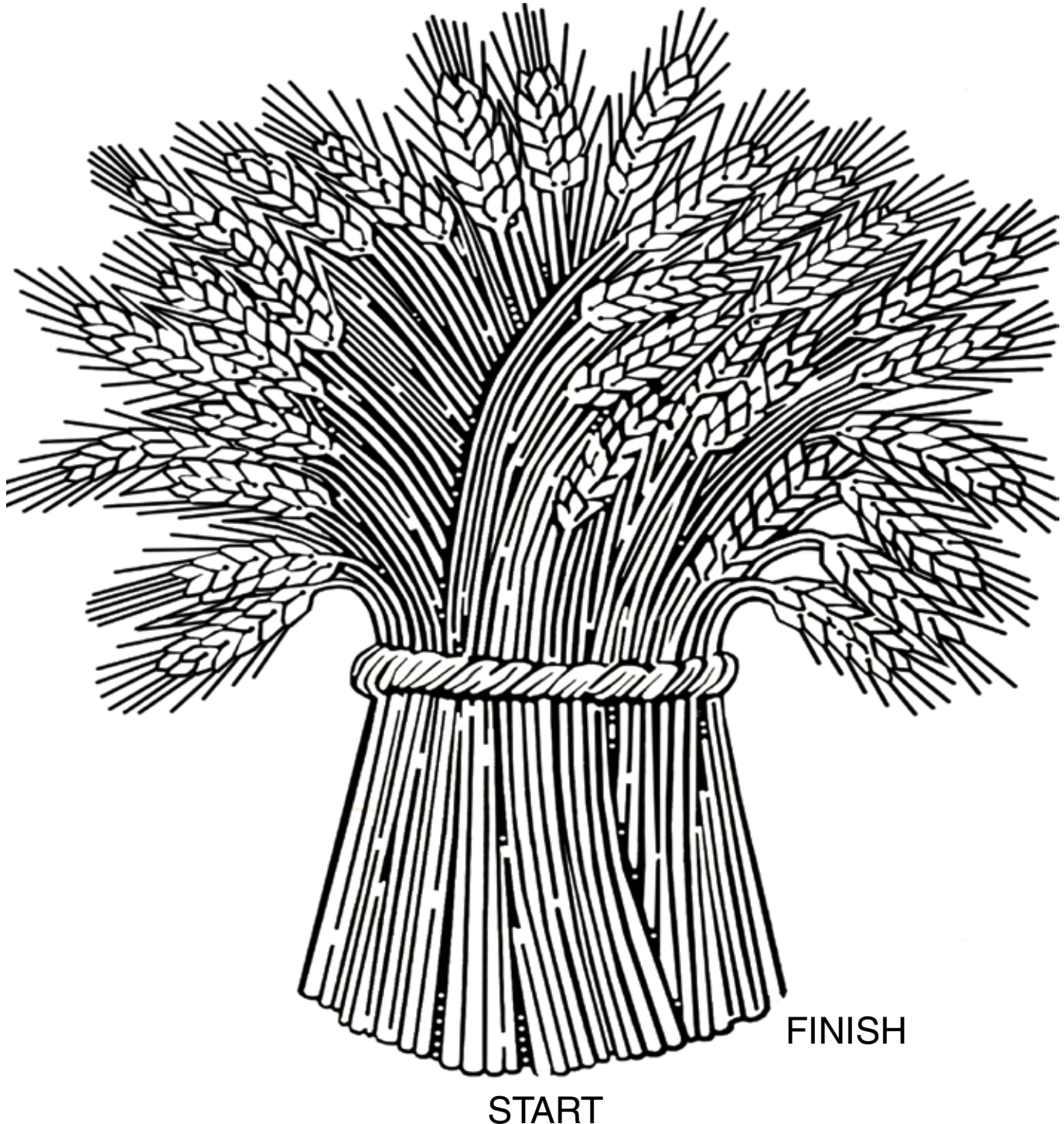
SIN  
OUT  
SON  
MOSES  
SAW

## RED

GOD  
TEN  
LAW  
ATE  
ALL  
WAY  
JOY

# GOD'S AMAZING HARVEST

Here is an intricate maze for you to try, and then color. The first harvest in the spring only produced a few bundles of grain after a long cold winter.





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**BIBLE MEMORY:** Exodus 12:26-27

Color the sheep as found in Exodus 12:5.

