

A Night to Remember

Exodus 12; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 273–280

Birthdays are usually fun celebrations. How do you celebrate your birthday? Are there any special days that you celebrate in your town or country? Perhaps you have a national day where you celebrate some big event in your country's history. These celebrations help us remember important things.

Moses turned his back on Pharaoh's palace and began the walk back to Goshen, the part of Egypt where the Israelites lived.

Pharaoh's voice still thundered in Moses' ears. "Get out of my sight!" Pharaoh had bellowed. "I never want to see you again." Moses knew the time had finally come. He pulled his robes a little higher and walked a little faster. He thought about all that had happened since the time God had first appeared to him.

He had performed miracles in Pharaoh's court and asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free. But Pharaoh hadn't been impressed. All Pharaoh could

think of was what would happen if Egypt lost all its slave labor.

There had been the nine plagues—the Nile River turning to blood, the frogs, the gnats, the flies, and all the rest. Pharaoh had come close to letting the Israelites go a time or two, but in the end he always refused.

But now. . . This would be the end. They would be leaving Egypt soon. Very soon.

Moses quickly called the Israelites together to give them God's latest message. "Listen," said Moses, "and follow these directions very carefully. Each family must select a perfect lamb, a male, one-year-old. Four days from now, at twilight, the father in each family is to kill the lamb and save some of its blood. Each father is to dip a hyssop branch into the blood



The Message

Celebrations help us remember what God has done for us.

Memory Verse

“I will remember the deeds of the Lord”

(Psalm 77:11, NIV).

and use the branch to put some of the blood on the sides and top of the door frame of his house. After the blood is on the doorpost, no one is to go outside again until morning.

“It is very, very important that you do this,” continued Moses. “At midnight the Lord will pass through the land of Egypt. He will strike dead the firstborn in every house, from Pharaoh’s palace to the prisoner in the dungeon. But the Lord will pass over the houses that have blood on the doorpost. Do you understand?”

A murmur of understanding rumbled through the crowd.

“Then take the lamb into the house and roast it whole,” continued Moses. “Eat it with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. If anything is left over, burn it in the fire. Do not try to save leftovers. If your family is too small to eat a whole lamb, get together with a neighbor and share it. But both of you must put blood over your door frames.”

Again, the crowd murmured its understanding.

“There’s one more thing,” instructed Moses. “Eat standing up, with your coat and shoes on and with your staff in your hand. Eat quickly. It will be the last meal you eat in Egypt. The Lord will set us free.”

Moses watched as the families headed home to select a lamb for the meal. *This is the first Passover*, Moses

thought. *We will celebrate what God is about to do for us. But we will celebrate the Passover again next year, and then we will be celebrating what God has done for us. We will be free! And that year and every year after that, we will remember God’s goodness in leading us out of slavery.*



S A B B A T H

READ If possible, go outdoors with your family and read your lesson story together. Then read Psalm 77:11. Teach the verse to your family. Sit in a circle and praise Jesus for His blessings to your family. Sing "Thank You, Lord."

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read Exodus 12:15, Matthew 16:6, and 1 Corinthians 5:6. What does yeast represent? Read 1 Corinthians 5:7, 8. Put some yeast in sugar and warm water. Watch it bubble up. How is the yeast like sin?

DO Put your memory verse puzzle together and say the verse.

T U E S D A Y

READ With your family, read Exodus 12:21-28. How is Jesus like the Passover lamb? (See Exodus 12:5 and John 1:29.)

DO Make a lamb puppet from a paper sack. On the folded bottom of the sack, glue construction-paper eyes, nose, and ears. Make an oval-shaped white tail on the back of the puppet and cover the entire sack with cotton or cotton balls.

DO Look in a nature book or encyclopedia to learn two new things about sheep.

DO Say your memory verse to an adult.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read aloud Exodus 3:7-10 and Exodus 12:17-20. How did God want the Israelites to celebrate their freedom from Egypt?

DO Use the following recipe to make unleavened bread or crackers: 2 cups of whole wheat flour, 1 tablespoon of oil, 1 cup of water.

Place the ingredients in a self-locking plastic bag or in a bowl and mix to form a ball. On a baking tray spread the dough to approximately 1/4 inch (1 cm) thick. Cut into 1-inch (4 cm) squares and bake for 10 minutes in a moderate oven (180 degrees C or 350 degrees F).

DO Use the puzzle you made in Sabbath School to review the memory verse.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family, read Exodus 12:22 again. Ask someone to help you use a Bible concordance to find other Bible references to "hyssop." List three of the Bible texts and read them. What does "hyssop" represent? (Psalm 51:7).

DRAW Draw a picture of a family using hyssop on the night of the first Passover.

PRAY Thank God for caring for you.

THURSDAY

READ During worship, read Exodus 12:23 together. Tell what the verse means. Make a sign that says, "This Home Is Protected by God's Mighty Angels!" Hang it in your house to remind you that God protects your family. Decorate the sign with angel cutouts or drawings.

DO Say your memory verse together.

SING Sing "All Night, All Day" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 50) to celebrate God's protection; then thank Him for it.

FRIDAY

DO During worship tonight, name the firstborn in your family. If you had been the firstborn, what would you have done the night of the Passover?

DO Role-play with your family a possible scene on the night of the first Passover.

DO Thank Jesus for dying to save us from Satan just as the lamb died to save the firstborn in Egypt. Joyfully say your memory verse together.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Circle the pictures that show how the Israelites were to eat their last meal in Egypt.



Hyssop is probably the same as marjoram. Hyssop represents cleansing.

