

# Faith Lesson Plan and Faith Activity

## Chapter 5 - God's Saving Action

### Grades 5 & 6

#### Doctrinal Content

- God calls ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. (CCC, 2566)
- Moses is a model of courage for us to choose good. (CCC, 2575)
- The Exodus refers to the Israelites' journey, accomplished and directed by God, from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. (CCC, 2056-2057)
- Passover is the Jewish holy day that celebrates God's leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. (CCC, 1150)

### Invite - Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the sign of the Cross. Read aloud the leader's prayer. Proclaim the verse from Psalm 27:1 together. Have the young people move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.



**Leader:** Merciful Savior, we remember your love.  
We trust in you.

"The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?" *Psalm 27:1*

**All:** God who cannot forget us, we give you thanks  
for saving us, your people. Amen.

**Say:** Passover celebrates a meal of remembrance. It recalls a wondrous saving act of God. The Passover celebrations today end with Psalm 118, a great prayer of remembrance, thanks, and praise.

**Guide** the young people through the process of Scripture reflection below.

**Invite** them to close their eyes, be still, and open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them in this passage.

**Proclaim** the Scripture.

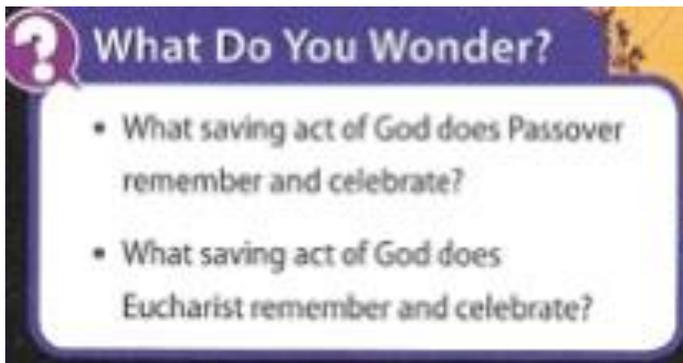
**Maintain** several moments of silence.

**Display and Read the following.**

**Read:** Psalm 118:1-5, 14



**Ask:** What did you hear God say to you in the Sacred Scripture reading? (Engage the young people to respond.)



**Say:** Let's answer the questions above in the section entitled "What Do You Wonder?" (Engage the young people to respond.)

**Say:** The Eucharist is our great meal of remembrance. We celebrate God's saving love. We remember and fulfill Jesus' command, "Do this in memory of me."

**Ask:** What else they might wonder about the journey of faith. (Engage the young people to respond.)

## Discover (1)

### Objectives:

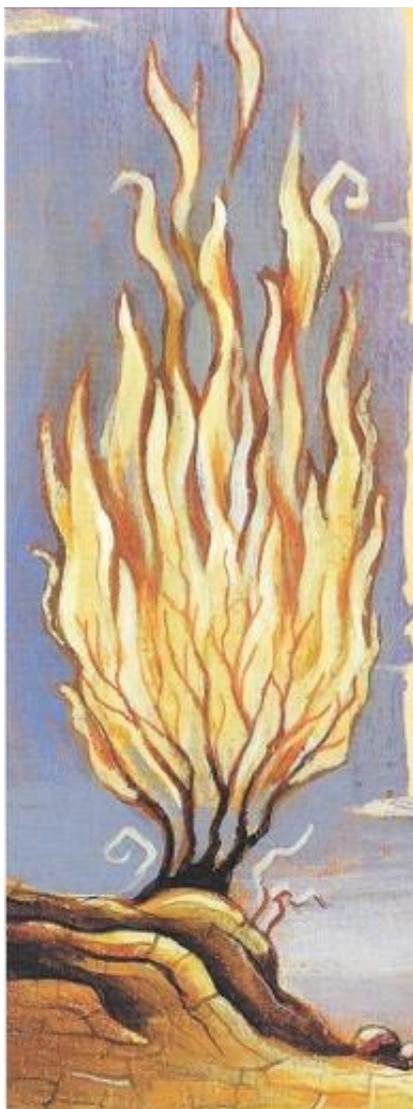
- Recognize that God calls ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things.
- Compare Moses' courage to our need for courage to choose good.
- Describe the Exodus as the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, accomplished and directed by God.

**Ask:** How is Moses an instrument of God's action? (Engage the young people for feedback.)

**Say:** God calls ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. From biblical times to the present, God has called people where they are to do his work. Moses was one of these people. Through him, you can see God's saving power at work. Through Moses, God delivered the Israelites from slavery to freedom. This was the beginning of the Israelite's journey, called the Exodus.

Ask a volunteer to proclaim the Scripture account of "Moses."

### Display and Read the following.



**Scripture**

**Moses**

Moses was one of the great leaders of the Hebrew people. He was born after the time of Joseph. The Hebrews were slaves in Egypt then. The pharaoh feared the Hebrews because there were so many of them. They were also strong. The pharaoh ordered every Hebrew baby boy born to be killed.

Moses' mother wanted to save him. She put him in a basket and floated the basket on the Nile River. The pharaoh's daughter found Moses and raised him in the royal palace.

When Moses was grown, he saw an Egyptian hurting a Hebrew. Moses killed the Egyptian, and then he ran away because he knew he would be punished.

Moses found a new home and became a shepherd. One day, he saw a bush that was on fire, but it was not being consumed. As Moses drew close to investigate the bush, God spoke to him.

God told Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt to a wonderful new land. God promised Moses that the pharaoh would send the Hebrews away after God worked many wonders.

Based on Exodus 1—3

★ Underline how God called Moses.

**Discuss** with the young people why God would work through people.

**Ask:** How did God call Moses? (Hints: What part of the story would they underline to answer this question? What is happening in the artwork?)

**Ask:** Can you explain what is happening in the artwork in the following display?

**Display the following.**



**Say:** As you read the Scripture passage below, look for the reason for the plagues.

### The Exodus

When Moses was a man, God sent him to the pharaoh to demand freedom for the Hebrews. Moses did as God asked, but the pharaoh refused to listen. God then sent nine plagues to the Egyptians. When the pharaoh still refused, God sent a tenth plague, the angel of death, to kill all of the firstborn Egyptian sons. Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go. They left Egypt to go to the Promised Land.

Based on Exodus 7:1—11:10, 12:29

Watch the video on Moses.

<https://youtu.be/UFU5NrPgutA>

**Ask:** What did you learn from the video? (Engage the young people to respond.)

**Ask:** Do you think Moses is a hero? If so, what qualities did Moses have that defined him as a hero? (Engage the young people to respond. Hint: Obedient, trustworthy, patient, fearless)

**Ask:** Who are some of your personal heroes? Do you know any everyday heroes?

### Quick Review - Summary

**Say:** Heroes are found in all times. God calls ordinary people like us to be faithful in following him and choosing good.

## Discover (2)

### Objectives

- Identify Passover as the Jewish holy day that celebrates God's leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.
- Recognize that we participate in the new covenant every time we take part in the Church's Sacraments or make good choices.

**Ask:** What is the meaning of the Passover meal and the Last Supper? (Engage the young people to respond.)

**Say:** In the Bible, you read about the Israelites and their descendants, later called Jews, celebrating important events with meals. Two of these meals have very special meaning for us. In the Old Testament, God commands the Jewish people to remember the Exodus by celebrating the Passover meal. In the New Testament, Jesus tells his followers to gather in his memory and remember him in the breaking of bread.

**Direct** the students to read “The Passover Meal.”

**Display, read, and discuss the following.**



Young people read a Haggadah, an order of service, before celebrating the festive meal at a Passover Seder. The meal includes *matzoh* (unleavened bread), *maror* (bitter herbs), and *haroset* (a mix of apples, nuts, and wine).

## The Passover Meal

Before God sent the final plague, he gave Moses special instructions for the people of Israel. Each family was to kill and eat a lamb and cover the door frame of the home with the lamb's blood. The angel of death would pass over the houses marked with blood, sparing the firstborn sons of the Israelites. On that last night in Egypt, the people had to eat quickly, making bread without yeast to save time.

This great and terrible night is known as the **Passover** of the Lord because it was the night that death passed over the houses of the Israelites. It would be remembered as a new beginning for the people.

Since that time, the Israelites, or Jewish people, have eaten a special meal called the Passover Seder to remember, make present, and celebrate God's saving power. The meal is celebrated around ritual questions and answers about the story of the Israelites' deliverance from slavery in Egypt.

- ➔ How does the Passover meal help people remember the Exodus?
- ➔ Explain to a partner why Passover is still celebrated by Jews today.

**Direct** the young people to answer the two questions at the end of "The Passover Meal." (Since the Exodus is the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, accomplished and directed by God, the Passover meal is another reminder of how God spared the Israelites once again. The Passover is still celebrated by Jews today to remember God's saving power.)

**Ask:** Why did the people make their bread without yeast? (They had to leave quickly and it saved time.)

**Ask:** Why is the night known as the Passover? (It was the night that death passed over the houses of the Israelites.)

Watch the video on the Passover Meal.  
<https://youtu.be/ZISVShBAVtw>

**Ask:** What did you learn about God and the Israelites from watching the video? (Engage the young people to respond.)

**Display, read, and discuss the following.**

## Jesus Saves

God made a covenant with Moses and the Israelites, an agreement that he would be their God and that they would be his People. When God sent his Son, he made a new covenant with all people forever. This covenant calls for the same kind of faithfulness that the earlier covenant promised. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, you participate in this covenant every time you take part in the Church's Sacraments or make good choices. Because Jesus did God's will even in death, he is our **Savior**. God's saving work is completely fulfilled in Jesus.

Like the other Jews of his time, Jesus celebrated God's saving power at a Passover meal. As Jesus blessed bread and wine at the Last Supper (see Matthew 26:26–30), he told the Apostles that the bread and wine were a sign of the new covenant between God and his People. The bread and wine became Christ's Body and Blood.

The actions of Jesus at the Passover meal mark the new covenant brought about by Jesus' Death and Resurrection, offering salvation to all faithful people. The new sacrifice and holy meal, first celebrated at the Last Supper, is the Eucharist, which is still celebrated today.

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**Direct** the young people to read first paragraph only.

**Ask:** How can we participate in the new covenant? (Engage the young people to respond.)  
(By participating in the Seven Sacraments.)

**Direct** a volunteer to read aloud the second and third paragraphs.

**Say:** The Eucharist is the Passover meal for Christians because Jesus replaced the Passover lamb of the Israelites.

**The Jewish Seder, the Last Supper, and the Eucharistic Liturgy**

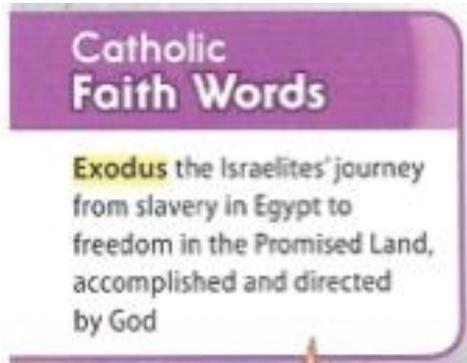
**Ask:** What connections can we make between the Passover Meal and our Eucharist?

YouTube Link: <http://youtu.be/g97VwxJdrfM>

**Ask:** What did you learn about God and the Israelites from watching the video? (Engage the young people to respond.)

## Work with Words

Review the following Faith Words



## Quick Review - Summary

**Say:** The Passover meal and the Last Supper are remembrance meals of God's deliverance and his covenant with his People. We participate in the new covenant every time we take part in the Sacraments.

## Live: Our Catholic Faith

**Ask:** In what ways do you see God protecting you from evil?

**Say:** God's saving action is needed to save humans from the power of evil. God calls his People to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in protecting their own lives and those of others from sin and the destruction it causes.

**Say:** Let's consider the suggestions in the following chart for protecting your life and the lives of others. Use the words in the list to complete sentences. (Guide the young people through this activity.)

**Say:** Let's each give a practical example of how each suggestion might be implemented. (Give each young person a turn in responding.)

**Display, read, and discuss the following.**

## Actions that Protect

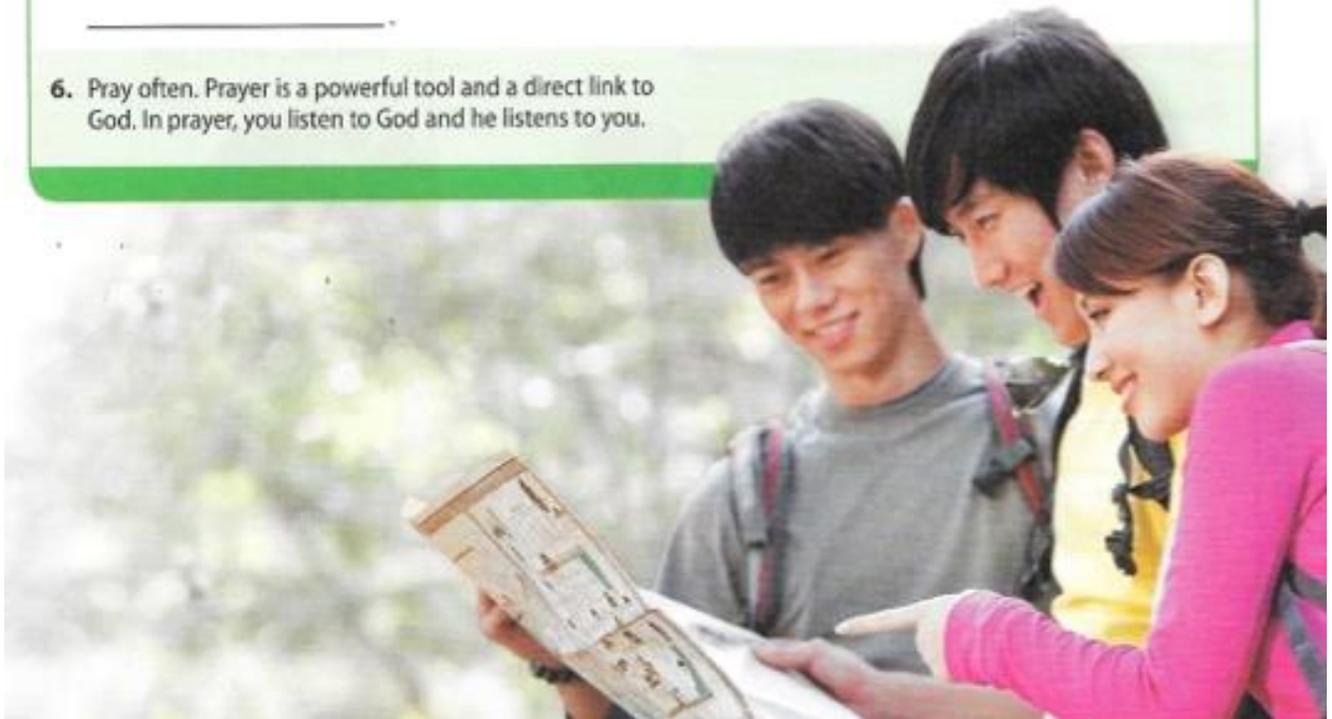
### Word List

freedom

Penance

Eucharist

1. Stay close to God by participating in the Sunday \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Keep your focus on God, and be aware of his loving presence in your life. Trust that he is leading you to safety.
3. Make the Sacrament of \_\_\_\_\_ and Reconciliation a regular part of your faith life.
4. Avoid situations in which you are tempted to lie, steal, cheat, disobey rules, or hurt others.
5. Choose your friends wisely. Good friends will help lead you toward \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Pray often. Prayer is a powerful tool and a direct link to God. In prayer, you listen to God and he listens to you.



**People of Faith - Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), 1891-1942;  
Feast Day - August 9**

**Say:** Edith Stein was born in Germany and grew up celebrating Jewish holidays such as Passover. She became a Catholic in her thirties and entered a convent. She took the religious name Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, but she never forgot the lessons she learned from her Jewish mother about the covenant God made with us.

Have a volunteer read aloud the paragraph.

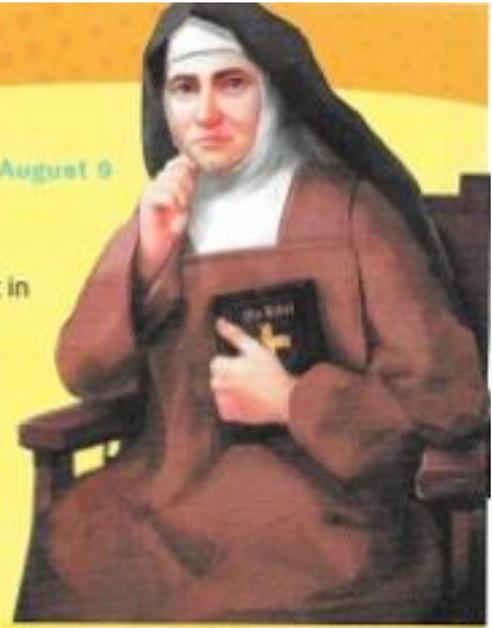
**Display, read, and discuss the following:**

## People of Faith

### Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, 1891–1942

August 9

Edith Stein was born in Germany to a Jewish family. She grew up celebrating Jewish holidays, such as Passover. Edith became a Catholic in her thirties and entered a convent. She took the religious name Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. During World War II, she moved to the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, the Nazis began persecuting Jews. Because she was of Jewish origin, Edith was arrested and sent to the death camp at Auschwitz, where she was executed. Even though she became a Catholic, she never forgot the lessons she learned from her Jewish mother about the covenant God made with us.



**Discuss:** What helps you to remain faithful? (Engage the young people to respond.)

**Say:** When Pope Saint John Paul II named Teresa a Saint, he also named her one of three women co-patron Saints of all Europe.

Rome, Saint Peter's Basilica, October 1, 1999 - Pope John Paul II:

"Wherefore, after much consideration, in virtue of my Apostolic Authority I establish and declare Saint Bridget of Sweden, Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross heavenly Co-Patronesses of all of Europe before God, and I hereby grant all the honors and liturgical privileges belonging by law to the principal patrons of places.

Glory be to the Holy Trinity whose radiant splendor shines uniquely in their lives and in the lives of all the Saints. Peace to men and women of good will, in Europe and throughout the world."

**Display and Read the following.**

**Emphasis Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) Point out that during their faith lesson today, they began with prayerful reflection on Scripture.**

### What the Young People Should Know

- God calls ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. (CCC, 2566)
- Moses is a model of courage for us to choose good. (CCC, 2575)
- The Exodus refers to the Israelites' journey, accomplished and directed by God, from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. (CCC, 2056-2057)
- Passover is the Jewish holy day that celebrates God's leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. (CCC, 1150)

## Faith Activity - 1

**Print this page and distribute to the young people.**

### Seder Meal

The Seder is the meal celebrating the Israelites' Exodus from slavery in Egypt. The food and the celebration are highly symbolic.

- Jews dress as people ready to travel, wearing coats and hats and sitting on the edges of their chairs as a reminder of their need to be ready to flee at a moment's notice.
- Ritual food items include unleavened bread as a sign of the flight from Egypt; hard-boiled eggs as a reminder of the sacrifice offered in the Temple in honor of the feast; roasted lamb as a reminder of the blood of the lamb killed in Egypt; bitter herbs as reminders of the bitterness of slavery; a green vegetable as a reminder of springtime, the season of Passover; and wine, apples, nuts, and cinnamon as reminders of the mortar used with the bricks for building Pharaoh's monuments.
- The youngest person present asks this question during the meal: "Why is this night different from all others?" The father of the family then explains the significance of the Exodus for the Jewish people.

**Read the Exodus story from the Bible (Exodus 12:1-28), and compare the story with the Seder meal. Write the similarities and differences below.**

### The Exodus Story and the Seder Meal

#### Similarities

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#### Differences

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## Faith Activity - 2

**Guide the young people through the activity.**

### Name that Plague

#### Supplies:

a hat or bowl                      Bible  
small slips of paper              small prizes

Write each of these plagues on small slips of paper and put them in a hat or bowl:

water turning to blood

frogs	darkness
gnats	death of first-born babies
flies	hummingbirds
sick cows	quicksand
boils on the skin	dizziness
thunder and hail	mosquitoes
locusts	snakes

**Say:** We are going to play a game called "Name that Plague!" First, I'll divide you into three teams. (This may be three individual people, each representing a team; or if enough participants, three teams of multiple people.)

- Number the participants off and divide them into three teams.
- Have each team come up with a name and allow a representative from each team to write its name on the board or on chart paper where you will keep score.

**Say:** Now one person from each group can come here and select one piece of paper from the bowl. It will have a plague written on it. Your teams will have one minute to figure out a way to act out that plague without making any sounds or saying any words.

- Allow time for the children to work on how they will act out their assigned plague.

**Say:** Now we'll have the first group, (say name of group), act out their plague. The rest of us will watch. When you think you know what the plague is, raise your hand. I'll say "Freeze" and the acting team will freeze in their positions. Then I'll ask what you think the plague is. If you get it right, your team will win one point. If you get it wrong, the other teams will get a chance to guess.

- Allow time for these guesses.

When the first correct guess is made, **Say:** Now there is a catch! There were 10 plagues in the story about God, Moses, and Pharaoh, but in our bowl here, there are 15 plagues. Since you guessed the plague correctly, I will ask you the second question: was this plague one of the 10 plagues in the Bible story? Say "yes" or "no" and if you are correct, your team will get another point.

- Allow children to answer and to check the answers starting in Exodus 7:14. Play until all the plagues have been acted out. Declare the team with the most points the "Plague Experts."

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Like the Passover meal, the \_\_\_\_\_ is a memorial meal for which we gather in memory of Jesus and for the breaking of bread.
  - a. Mass
  - b. Eucharistic celebration
  - c. both a and b
2. The Last Supper was a celebration of \_\_\_\_\_, at which Jesus said that the bread and wine were signs of a new covenant between God and his People.
  - a. the building of the Temple by Solomon
  - b. the Passover meal
  - c. Moses receiving the Ten Commandments
3. The Passover celebration gets its name from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the way death passed over the houses of the Israelites
  - b. the passing of the Israelites through the Red Sea
  - c. the passing of unleavened bread among the Hebrews as they left Egypt
4. Today, we can help to free ourselves and others from sin and the destruction it causes by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. attending Mass every Sunday
  - b. praying - talking to and listening to God
  - c. both a and b
5. Before God sent the tenth plague on Egypt, Moses told the Hebrews to protect their houses and families with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. crossed swords at the doorway
  - b. lamb's blood on the door frames
  - c. a burning lamp in each window
6. God established a \_\_\_\_\_ with all people forever when he sent his Son, Jesus, to free people from their sins.
  - a. Passover
  - b. new covenant
  - c. priesthood
7. We call Jesus "\_\_\_\_\_" because he came into the world to save everyone by saving them from sin and leading them back to God the Father.
  - a. Savior
  - b. Prince of Peace
  - c. The Good Shepherd

8. Ever since the Israelites escaped from slavery in Egypt thousands of years ago, Jews have celebrated the event with \_\_\_\_\_.
- special services in their synagogues
  - pilgrimages to Jerusalem
  - a memorial meal called the Passover Seder
9. \_\_\_\_\_ afflicted Egypt because the pharaoh refused to give the Hebrews their freedom, as Moses requested.
- Invading armies
  - Terrible plagues
  - Powerful tornadoes
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is a Jewish holy day that celebrates God's leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.
- Passover
  - Exodus
  - The Sabbath
11. Later, when Moses was a shepherd, God appeared to him in the wilderness as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- beautiful white dove
  - burning bush
  - voice coming from the starlit sky
12. The Exodus was the journey that God directed the Israelites to take from \_\_\_\_\_ to freedom in the Promised Land.
- exile in Babylonia
  - slavery in Egypt
  - the city of Ephesus
13. Match each option with its appropriate term.

**Options**

- (\_\_\_\_) Passover
- (\_\_\_\_) Saint Teresia Benedicta
- (\_\_\_\_) Exodus
- (\_\_\_\_) Moses
- (\_\_\_\_) Savior

**Terms**

- the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom
- Jewish-born nun who loved Christ and died in a German death camp
- called by God to lead the Israelites to freedom and the Promised Land
- title for Jesus who came to save all people lost through sin

j. Jewish holy day celebrating the Israelites' freedom from slavery

**14. Fill in the blank in the sentence below.**

On their last night in Egypt, the Hebrews had to eat quickly so they made their bread without \_\_\_\_\_.

**15. Fill in the blank in the sentence below.**

What we can see in Moses' story is that God calls \_\_\_\_\_ people to do extraordinary things for him.

**16. Fill in the blank in the sentence below.**

At the Last Supper, Jesus explained that the bread and wine were signs of a \_\_\_\_\_ between God and his People.

**17. Fill in the blank in the sentence below.**

Like Passover, the \_\_\_\_\_ is a memorial meal since Jesus asked his followers to remember him in the breaking of the bread.

**18. Fill in the blank in the sentence below.**

When Moses was living and working as a shepherd, God appeared and spoke to him from a \_\_\_\_\_.

**19. Fill in the blank in the sentence below.**

"The Lord is my light and my salvation;" says Psalm 27 "whom should I \_\_\_\_\_?"

**20. Fill in the blank in the sentence below.**

The \_\_\_\_\_ was the long journey taken by the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

**21. Fill in the blank in the sentence below.**

God's saving work is completely fulfilled or completed in \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answer Key

1. Like the Passover meal, the \_\_\_\_\_ is a memorial meal for which we gather in memory of Jesus and for the breaking of bread.
  - a. Mass
  - b. Eucharistic celebration
  - c. both a and b
  
2. The Last Supper was a celebration of \_\_\_\_\_, at which Jesus said that the bread and wine were signs of a new covenant between God and his People.
  - a. the building of the Temple by Solomon
  - b. the Passover meal
  - c. Moses receiving the Ten Commandments
  
3. The Passover celebration gets its name from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the way death passed over the houses of the Israelites
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  - c. the passing of unleavened bread among the Hebrews as they left Egypt
  
4. Today, we can help to free ourselves and others from sin and the destruction it causes by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. attending Mass every Sunday
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  - a. Passover
  - b. new covenant
  - c. priesthood
  
7. We call Jesus " \_\_\_\_\_ " because he came into the world to save everyone by saving them from sin and leading them back to God the Father.
  - a. Savior
  - b. Prince of Peace
  - c. The Good Shepherd

8. Ever since the Israelites escaped from slavery in Egypt thousands of years ago, Jews have celebrated the event with \_\_\_\_\_.
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- exile in Babylonia
  - slavery in Egypt
  - the city of Ephesus
13. Match each option with its appropriate term.
- 1 = Jewish holy day celebrating the Israelites' freedom from slavery
  - 2 = Jewish-born nun who loved Christ and died in a German death camp
  - 3 = the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom
  - 4 = called by God to lead the Israelites to freedom and the Promised Land
  - 5 = title for Jesus who came to save all people lost through sin
14. On their last night in Egypt, the Hebrews had to eat quickly so they made their bread without \_\_\_\_\_.
- yeast

15. What we can see in Moses' story is that God calls \_\_\_\_\_ people to do extraordinary things for him.  
ordinary
16. At the Last Supper, Jesus explained that the bread and wine were signs of a \_\_\_\_\_ between God and his People.  
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Eucharist
18. When Moses was living and working as a shepherd, God appeared and spoke to him from a \_\_\_\_\_.  
burning bush
19. "The Lord is my light and my salvation;" says Psalm 27 "whom should I \_\_\_\_\_?"  
fear
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ was the long journey taken by the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.  
Exodus
21. God's saving work is completely fulfilled or completed in \_\_\_\_\_.  
Jesus