

Faith Lesson Plan and Faith Activity

Signs of Grace (You are Loved) Session 1- Preparing the Way for Christ

Grade 2

Doctrinal Content

Sacrifices of bread and wine were part of the Old Testament Covenant, but they were given a new significance in the context of the Exodus. The unleavened bread is a remembrance of the haste of the departure which liberated the Chosen People from Egypt. The Manna, a reminder that they shall live by the bread of God's Word alone and that God is faithful to his promises. The "blessing cup" at the end of the Passover meal brings an expectation of the renewal of Jerusalem. With the institution of the Eucharist, Jesus gives new meaning to the bread and wine offered at Passover. (CCC 1334)

Objectives

- God saves his people Israel by delivering them from slavery through the Passover event and by feeding them with Manna in the wilderness.
- Passover is one of the most important sacrifices for the Jewish people, and God wanted them to remember this saving event every year.
- Sacrifice is offering something to God in atonement for sin or in thanksgiving for God's great gifts. Jesus offers himself as a sacrifice so that our sins could be forgiven.
- The most important way we offer sacrifice to God is by attending Mass where we can unite our lives to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- Today, every Catholic church has a Tabernacle where the Eucharist is reserved for prayer and adoration outside of Mass. Jesus is truly present in the Tabernacle.

Let Us Pray

Make the sign of the cross.

Say: Heavenly Father, thank you for showing your power and your love when you saved your people from slavery in Egypt and led them through the desert to the Promised Land. Please help me to always trust in you to guide me, protect me, and care for my needs. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen. (Student guide pg 5)

*Pray the Act of Contrition
Make the sign of the cross.*

Memory Verse Review

Encourage each child to recite from memory the verse from last week. Give a reward when appropriate effort is given to reciting the memory verse.

"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

New Memory Verse (*Student guide pg 15*)

“I am the bread of life. Your fathers are manna in the wilderness... I am the living bread which came down from Heaven.” (John 6:48-49,51)

Saint of the Day - Saint Catherine of Siena (1347-1380); Feast Day April 29; Patron of nurses and fire prevention (*Student guide pg 15*)

Display the following.



- Saint Catherine was from Italy, her father was a dyer, and she was the youngest of 23 children though only 12 of her siblings lived through infancy.
- Saint Catherine loved God with all her heart and wanted to belong only to Jesus, but her mother wanted her to marry. She cut off her beautiful long hair when she was a teenager so that boys would not think her pretty.
- Saint Catherine lived at a time when people were confused about what the Church taught. God used her to feed people's minds and heart with the truth. After she became a saint, she was made a doctor of the church which means that she had a special understand of God's truth.
- Saint Catherine spent many years eating nothing except receiving the Holy Eucharist at Mass.
- Saint Catherine shows us that God will always provide what we need.

Say: Think about your birthday. Think about how you celebrate it. When something really important happens, like a wedding or the birth of a new baby, we celebrate that event every year. Sometimes we have special traditions, meaning that we celebrate it the same way every year. When God saved the Israelites from slavery and death in Egypt, he told them to celebrate that special day every year with the Feast of Passover. He told them exactly how to celebrate the feast so they would always remember how he saved them.

Let's Watch

Watch: God is with us.

<https://watch.formed.org/signs-of-grace/season:2/videos/you-are-loved-ep-1-1> (3:05)

Ask: *(encourage the Children to answer)*

What is the most amazing thing in the whole world? The Eucharist

Why do you think Jesus makes himself present to us in the form of bread and wine? Couldn't he have done something more exciting? Jesus comes to us in the form of bread and wine so that he can be true food for our could and so he can become very close to us by entering into us when we receive him.

What excites you the most about receiving your First Communion? Answers will vary. Receiving Jesus who is really present in the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is the most important gift in the world because Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. What are some things you can do to prepare yourself to receive your First Holy Communion? Answers will vary. Learning about the Eucharist. Praying so we can become closer to Jesus. Attending Mass every Sunday with our parents and asking to go if our parents say we can skip it.

Let's Read God's Word *(Student Guide pg 6-7)*

Say: Remember how the Israelites lived in Egypt and were welcome after Joseph helped to save Egypt from having no food? Do you remember how after many years the Israelites were no long welcomed, but were made slaves to the Egyptians? They were treated very badly. They prayed to God to save them, and God sent them Moses. Here we are going to read about how God used Moses to save the Israelites.

Proclaim:

When God sent **MOSES** to bring the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, Pharaoh did not listen. God sent nine terrible **PLAGUES**- such as a terrible hailstorm and swarms of locusts- to show that he was the only God. But still Pharaoh would not let the Israelites leave. Finally, God told Moses there would be a tenth plague. In this final plague, all the first-born sons of Egypt would die, and then Pharaoh would finally let God's people go.

God gave Moses instructions for what the Israelites were to do on the night of the tenth plague. Every family needed to choose a spotless lamb and **SACRIFICE** it. They had to put some of the lamb's blood on the doorposts of their houses to show that were God's people. Then they had to cook the lamb and eat it with **UNLEAVENED BREAD**. They had to eat flat bread without any yeast in it. When they ate the lamb and unleavened bread, they were to dress for a long journey, because in the morning they would leave Egypt.

This special meal is called the **PASSOVER**, because the final plague passed over the houses of God's chosen people. God told Moses that the Israelites must celebrate this feast every year. Forever Passover celebration, they must sacrifice a lamb and eat it with unleavened bread. In this feast they remember and celebrate how God saved his people from slavery. (Based on Ex 12:14-28)

Ask: (Encourage children to answer)

How do you think the Israelites felt when they celebrated the first Passover? *Answers will vary. The Israelites may have felt scared about the tenth plague, curious about what God was going to do next, excited to leave Egypt, or maybe doubtful that they would finally get to leave.*

How do you think the Israelites felt the next day when they left Egypt? *Answers will vary. They probably felt happy and excited the next day that they were allowed to leave Egypt. They may have also felt nervous or anxious about their journey and what was going to happen next.*

God told the Israelites to mark their doors with the blood of the lamb to prove that they were his people. What are some ways that you can show that you belong to God? *Answers will vary. Wear something like a crucifix or medal. Pray before we eat even in public or when with other people who are not. We can tell people that we will pray for them and really do it.*

Key Words

Moses: An Israelite who was adopted by an Egyptian princess. God chose him to deliver the Israelites from slavery. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to guide his people.

Plagues: A series of disasters that God brought upon Egypt to convince Pharaoh to free the Israelites from slavery.

Sacrifice: Offering of something to God for the forgiveness of sin or in thanksgiving for God's great gifts. Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice so that our sins could be forgiven.

Unleavened Bread: Bread that is made without yeast so that it does not rise.

Passover: The event that recalls how God saved his people from slavery and death in Egypt

Let's Learn About Our Faith (Student Guide pg 8-10)

Say: As we heard, the first celebration of the Passover event was on the night before **ISRAEL** left Egypt. God told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover every year so that they would remember how God saved them from slavery and death. For this reason, the Passover sacrifice and feast was one of the most important days of the entire year for God's people.

After Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt into the desert, the people got very hungry. So, God gave them bread from Heaven to eat. In the morning, the Israelites found small white flakes on the ground. They called it **MANNA**, which means "What is it?" because they had never seen anything like it before. The Israelites spent forty years in the desert. God fed them with the manna for that whole time.

Ask: What is the Passover? *The Passover is the memorial where a lamb was sacrificed, and the people ate it and unleavened bread. It recalls how God saved his people from slavery and death in Egypt. God told the people to celebrate it every year.*

What is a Manna? *The bread from Heaven that God gave to the Israelites in the desert*

Say: God loved his people and he wanted to always be present to them in a special way. To show that he was with them, he led them on their journey by appearing as a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. The pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire never left the Israelites in the desert. God told Moses to build a Tabernacle to be God's dwelling place. The Tabernacle was a large, beautiful tent. When the Israelites finished building the Tabernacle, the pillar of cloud covered it to show that the presence of God was there.

The Tabernacle was the place where God's people came to offer sacrifices to him. Sacrifice is an action that shows how much we love God. It is a symbol of giving something back to God for everything he has given us. In the Old Testament, God's people often sacrificed animals. They also offered him sacrifices of bread and wine. Sometimes the whole sacrifice was burnt on the altar. This was a symbol of giving everything to God. Sometimes people are part of the sacrifice, like at the Passover. This was a symbol of sharing a family meal with God. There were sacrifices to ask for forgiveness for sins and sacrifices to say thank you to God.

When Jesus came, he replaced the sacrifices of the Old Testament with his sacrifice on the Cross. But we still offer our own sacrifices to God by praying and doing good deeds. The most important way we offer sacrifice to God is by going to Mass because this is where we celebrate Jesus' sacrifice for us in a very special way.

Ask: What is the Tabernacle? *It was a large tent where God dwelt with his people when they were in the desert*

What is a Sacrifice? *It is an offering of something to God for the forgiveness of sins or in thanksgiving for God's great gifts. Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice so that our sins could be forgiven.*

When the Israelites were in the desert, God dwelt with them in the Tabernacle. Where can we find God's presence now? *God lives in our hearts because of the Sacrament of Baptism. Jesus is present in the Eucharist, so any Tabernacle in any Catholic church is the house of God.*

Key Words

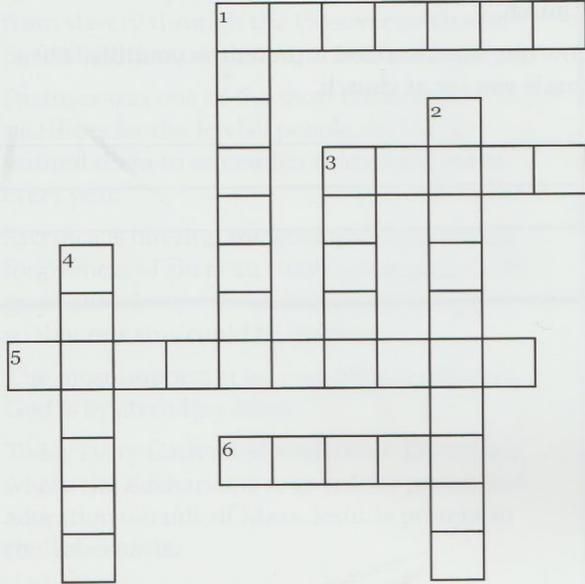
Israel: The nation that God chose to be his Chosen People

Manna: The bread from Heaven that God gave to the Israelites in the desert

Display & Complete the Following

 **Let's Live It**
Preparing the World for Christ

Answer the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



WORD BANK

- Manna
- Passover
- Plagues
- Tabernacle
- Pharaoh
- Moses
- Egypt
- Israelites

ACROSS

1. The king of Egypt.
3. The man sent by God to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.
5. A large, beautiful tent where the presence of God dwelt.
6. The place where the Israelites were slaves.

DOWN

1. The special feast when the Israelites remember how God saved them.
2. God's special people.
3. In the desert God gave the Israelites bread from heaven to eat.
4. Ten bad things that happened to Egypt to convince Pharaoh to let God's people go.

Jesus Said,
*"I am the bread of life.
Your fathers ate manna
in the wilderness...
I am the living bread
which came down
from heaven..."*
—John 6:49, 51

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Do you recall the memory verse?

"I am the bread of life. Your fathers are manna in the wilderness... I am the living bread which came down from Heaven." (John 6:48-49,51)

Faith Activity- Music with Ms. Tookie

Jesus, My Lord, My God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMlOJr-slac>

Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All

- 1. Jesus, my Lord, my God, my All, How can I love thee as I ought?
And how revere this wondrous gift, so far surpassing hope or thought.
Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore,
Oh, make us love thee more and more.
Oh, make us love thee more and more.**
- 2. Had I but Mary's sinless heart to love thee with, My dearest King,
Oh with what bursts of fervent praise
Thy goodness, Jesus, would I sing.
Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore,
Oh, make us love thee more and more.
Oh, make us love thee more and more.**
- 3. Thy Body, Soul and Godhead, all, O mystery of love divine.
I cannot compass all I have,
For all thou hast and art are mine.
Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore,
Oh, make us love thee more and more.
Oh, make us love thee more and more.**