

WEEK 16: THE PASSOVER: GOD SAVES BY THE BLOOD

Main Lesson | Ages 5–11 | Read-Aloud | Scripture-Centered | Christ-Centered

April 19, 2026 | Exodus 12:1–14; 12:21–31; 12:37–42

LESSON OVERVIEW

Week #:	16
Date:	April 19, 2026
Lesson Title:	The Passover: God Saves by the Blood
Primary Scripture:	Exodus 12:1–14; Exodus 12:21–31; Exodus 12:37–42
Bible Timeline:	After God calls Moses and sends the plagues on Egypt, and before God leads His people through the Red Sea.

BIG IDEA

God saved His people through the blood of the lamb, and the Passover points us to Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

"The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you."

Exodus 12:13

This verse teaches us that God gave His people a sign. The blood mattered because God said it would. God saves in the way He says.

SETTING THE SCENE

Let's begin by listening to God's Word. In Exodus 3:7–8, the Lord said to Moses, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out... and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them."

That means today's lesson did not happen by surprise. God had already promised to rescue His people. The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for many years. Pharaoh was cruel. He would not obey God. The Lord had already sent many plagues on Egypt, but Pharaoh kept hardening his heart. Now we come to the night when God would punish evil and rescue His people. This is one of the most important nights in the whole Bible, because God is about to bring His people out of slavery, and He is also giving a picture that points ahead to Jesus.

MAIN LESSON NARRATIVE | READ ALOUD – AT LEAST 10 MINUTES

Children, tonight in God's Word we are standing in Egypt. God's people have been suffering there for a long time. Think about families who are tired, afraid, and not free to leave. They are under the power of Pharaoh, a king who will not listen to God.

But God had not forgotten them. He never forgets His promises. Long before this night, God had promised Abraham that He would make a people for Himself. He promised to bless them and keep them. Now, just as He said, the Lord was getting ready to rescue them.

Moses and Aaron had gone to Pharaoh again and again with God's message: "Let my people go." But Pharaoh would not listen. So God sent plague after plague. The river Nile was struck. Frogs covered the land. Hail fell. Darkness covered Egypt. Still Pharaoh would not obey.

Then the Lord gave Moses and Aaron very careful instructions. Listen to Exodus 12:3, 5–7. God said each household was to take an animal. It had to be a one-year-old male without defect. That means it could not be sick, hurt, or damaged. It could come from the sheep or the goats. They were to keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, and then kill it at twilight. Twilight means the time when day is ending and night is beginning. God told them to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and top of the doorframe of the house where they would eat the meal.

Why would God tell them to do that? Because this was not an ordinary supper. This was God's rescue meal. God was teaching His people that punishment was coming, but He was also showing them the way to be safe.

The animal had to be without defect. It had to be whole and clean. Then the blood was placed on the doorframe. The doorway of the house was marked with the sign God Himself had chosen.

Now listen to Exodus 12:8. God said, "That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast." God told them exactly how to prepare the meal. The meat was not to be eaten raw. It was not to be boiled in water. It had to be roasted over the fire. They were to eat it with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast.

Why bread without yeast? First, because God commanded it. This was part of His special meal. Later, when the people left Egypt very quickly, that bread would also remind them that God brought them out in haste.

God then said something else in Exodus 12:11. "This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover."

Can you picture that? They were not supposed to lean back and relax. They were dressed to go. Sandals on. Staff in hand. Ready to leave. God was about to act.

Then we hear the reason for all of this. Listen to Exodus 12:12–13. The Lord said, "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn... and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you... and when I see the blood, I will pass over you."

This is a holy moment. God is not weak. He is not pretending. He is the Lord, the true God. He sees evil. He hears the cries of His people. He keeps His word.

But hear the mercy too. God did not only say that punishment was coming. He also gave a way to be safe. He told His people exactly what to do. The blood would be the sign. The house under the blood would be passed over.

We need to understand something carefully. The blood was not magic. The people were not safe because there was power in red marks on wood. They were safe because God said this was His sign of rescue. They were safe because they trusted and obeyed the word of the Lord.

Exodus 12:22–23 gives another important detail. Moses told the elders of Israel to use hyssop to put the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe. Hyssop was a small plant that could be used like a brush. Then he said, "None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. When the Lord goes through the land... he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway."

Did you hear that? They had to stay inside. Safety was not in running outside. Safety was not in making their own plan. Safety was where God said it would be found: under the blood, inside the house He had marked out.

That night, the families of Israel obeyed. Picture the quiet in those homes. A father looks at the doorway and sees the blood. A mother gathers the children close. The meal is eaten just as God said. Sandals are on. Staff is ready. No one knows the exact moment when God will act, but they know His word is true.

Outside those homes, Egypt is quiet for a little while.

Then midnight comes.

Listen to Exodus 12:29–30. "At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt... Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead."

This is a very serious part of the Bible. God had warned Pharaoh again and again. Egypt had been cruel to God's people. Long before this, Pharaoh had even ordered Hebrew baby boys to be killed. God is patient, but He is not unjust. He punishes evil rightly.

But while punishment fell in Egypt, the homes under the blood were spared. God did exactly what He said He would do. Not one word failed.

Then Pharaoh finally called for Moses and Aaron during the night. Exodus 12:31 says, "Up! Leave my people... Go, worship the Lord as you have requested." After all his refusing and all his pride, Pharaoh finally told them to go.

The Egyptians wanted them to leave quickly. The Israelites took dough without yeast, just as the Lord had said would happen. They asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, and the Egyptians gave them what they asked. God was rescuing His people with great power.

Then Exodus 12:37 says the Israelites traveled from Rameses to Sukkoth. A great crowd left Egypt that night. Exodus 12:41 says, "At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt." Think about that: to the very day. God was not late. God did not forget. He remembered His promise perfectly and acted exactly on time.

Then Exodus 12:42 says, "Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come." God wanted His people to remember this night. He wanted parents to tell children. He wanted future families to know: the Lord rescued us.

Now, children, this true event in Exodus is not only about Israel leaving Egypt. It also points us forward to Jesus.

Many years later, John the Baptist saw Jesus and said in John 1:29, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" That is a very important sentence. John was saying that Jesus is the One the Passover was pointing to.

In Egypt, God's people needed a spotless sacrifice so they could be safe from judgment. In the gospel, sinners need an even greater rescue. We are not slaves in Egypt, but all people are sinners who need God's forgiveness. We cannot save ourselves by trying harder or being nicer. We need God to save us.

That is why Jesus came. He is God the Son. He lived without sin. He never disobeyed the Father even once. He is perfectly pure. He went to the cross and shed His blood so sinners could be forgiven. The Passover lamb in Exodus could only point ahead. Jesus is the true and better Lamb.

Listen to 1 Corinthians 5:7: "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." That means the Bible itself tells us to see the connection. Jesus is our Passover Lamb.

And here is more good news: Jesus did not stay dead. He rose again. His sacrifice was accepted. His rescue is complete. Everyone who turns from sin and trusts in Jesus is forgiven and brought into God's family.

So what should we learn tonight? We should learn that God is holy. Sin is serious. We should learn that God is merciful. He gives the rescue His people need. We should learn that God keeps His word exactly. And we should learn that all of this points to Jesus, our Savior.

If you had stood in Egypt on that night and asked, "What makes this house safe?" the answer would have been, "The blood God appointed." And if you ask today, "How can sinners be forgiven and made right with God?" the answer is, "Through Jesus Christ, who died and rose again."

God saves by the blood of the Lamb. First, He showed that in Passover. Then He fulfilled it in Jesus.

WHY WE CAN TRUST THIS ACCOUNT

This account is trustworthy because the Bible presents it as real history, with places, actions, instructions, and a feast that God told His people to remember every year. Exodus 12 is not written like make-believe. It tells us what God did in the real world.

The rest of the Bible also treats the Exodus as a real event. Psalms such as Psalm 105 remember God's mighty acts in Egypt. Joshua speaks of God bringing His people out. Most of all, Jesus honored the Scriptures and kept the Passover Himself before going to the cross.

Children sometimes ask, "Did this really happen?" A good answer is this: yes, because God says it in His Word, and the whole Bible fits together around Jesus. The Passover in Exodus and the cross of Christ in the New Testament fit together in one beautiful plan that God was showing all along.

Historical study does not answer every question people ask, but the Bible is our final authority. We believe this because God tells us the truth.

WHAT THIS SHOWS US ABOUT JESUS

Spotless animal	Jesus is sinless.
Blood marks safety	Jesus shed His blood to save sinners.
Trust God's rescue	We must trust Jesus, not ourselves.
Out of slavery	Jesus brings His people out of sin and into new life.

When Jesus shared the Passover meal with His disciples, He showed that His death would be the greater rescue. He is not only another teacher in the Bible. He is the Savior the Bible has been pointing to all along.

GOD REVEALED AS TRINITY

The Bible teaches that God is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In this lesson, we see the one true God judging evil and saving His people. Later in the Bible, we see more clearly how the three Persons work together.

God the Father	Sent the Son to save sinners.
God the Son	Jesus Christ, the true Passover Lamb who gave His life for us.
God the Holy Spirit	Helps people understand the truth, trust in Christ, and live as God's people.

We do not worship three gods. We worship one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

LIFE APPLICATION

Children can respond to this lesson in four ways:

Trust God's Word.	When God says something, it is true. The Israelites were safe when they believed and obeyed what God said.
Do not try to save yourself.	We all need Jesus. Being nice, trying hard, or going to church cannot wash away sin. Only Jesus can save.
God is both holy and loving.	He punishes evil, and He gives mercy to those who trust Him.
Thank Jesus for His sacrifice.	If you already belong to Him, praise Him for rescuing you. If you do not yet trust Him, ask Him for mercy and believe in Him.

DEFENDING THE TRUTH

Why did God tell them to put blood on the door if He already knows everything?

God did not need the blood to help Him know which house belonged to His people. God already knows everything. The blood was the sign He appointed to show that the family was trusting His way of rescue. Exodus 12:13 says, "The blood will be a sign for you." It was a sign of the rescue God had promised.

Supporting Scripture: Exodus 12:13; Exodus 12:22–23; Hebrews 11:28

Why did they eat bitter herbs?

Exodus 12:8 tells us God commanded bitter herbs as part of the meal. The passage does not explain their meaning there. Many teachers think they remind us of the bitterness of slavery, especially because Exodus 1:14 says the Egyptians made Israel's lives bitter with hard labor. We can say that carefully without pretending the verse explains more than it does.

Supporting Scripture: Exodus 12:8; Exodus 1:14

Discussion: The Blood and Jesus

Handle this part with calm, clear words. Do not speak in a frightening or overly detailed way. Keep the focus on rescue, mercy, forgiveness, and Jesus as the Savior God promised.

In Exodus 12, God gave His people a sign of rescue. The blood on the doorframe showed that this family was trusting the way God said to be saved. The blood did not have magic power. It mattered because God appointed it.

Later in the Bible, God helps us understand that the Passover was pointing forward to Jesus. John the Baptist saw Jesus and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). That means Jesus is the greater Lamb God promised.

At Passover, a household animal died and the people in the house were spared. At the cross, Jesus gave His life so sinners who trust Him can be forgiven. Ephesians 1:7 says, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins." First Peter 1:18–19 says we were redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

In Egypt, God saved His people through the blood of the Passover lamb.

At the cross, God saves sinners through Jesus, the true Lamb of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was happening to God's people in Egypt before Passover?

They were slaves in Egypt and were suffering under Pharaoh.

2. What kind of animal did each household need for the Passover?

A one-year-old male without defect, taken from the sheep or the goats.

3. What did the people do with the blood?

They put it on the sides and top of the doorframe of the house.

4. What happened when God saw the blood?

He passed over that house, and judgment did not fall there.

5. Why did the people eat with sandals on and staffs in their hands?

Because God was about to rescue them, and they had to be ready to leave.

6. What does the Passover point us to?

It points us to Jesus, the true Passover Lamb, who died and rose again to save sinners.

Optional Deeper Questions**7. Why is it important that God gave the instructions for Passover instead of the people making up their own plan?**

Because salvation belongs to God. We are rescued by His way, not ours.

8. How do we see both God's justice and God's mercy in this passage?

God punished sin in Egypt, and He also provided a way of rescue through the blood.

9. Why is Jesus better than the Passover lamb?

The Passover lamb pointed forward, but Jesus truly takes away sin and gives eternal salvation.

10. What did the blood on the doorframe mean in Exodus 12?

It was the sign God appointed to mark the house that was trusting His way of rescue.

11. When the New Testament talks about the blood of Jesus, what does it mean?

It means Jesus gave His life as the sacrifice for sinners so that all who trust Him can be forgiven.

12. Why can't our own good works save us?

Because forgiveness comes through Jesus and what He did for us, not through our own efforts.

13. What is similar between the Passover and the cross of Jesus?

In both, God provides the sacrifice, and rescue comes by trusting what God has provided.

14. What is different between the Passover lamb and Jesus?

The Passover lamb was a sign pointing ahead, but Jesus is the true Savior who really takes away sin.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY | DOORFRAME REMINDER CRAFT

To help children remember that God gave a specific rescue sign at Passover and that the Passover points to Jesus.

Supplies Needed:

- Two strips of brown construction paper for each child
- One shorter strip for the top of the doorframe
- Tape or glue
- Red paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Optional index card

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Give each child three brown paper strips to make a simple doorframe shape.
2. Help them glue or tape the strips onto an index card or sheet of paper so it looks like a doorway.
3. Give each child small pieces of red paper to place on the two side posts and the top beam of the doorframe.
4. In the middle of the doorway, have them write: God saves by the blood of the lamb.
5. Under that sentence, older children can write: Jesus is our Passover Lamb.
6. Read Exodus 12:13 aloud again.
7. Remind the children that the red paper is only a visual reminder. The real point is not magic in the sign, but trusting the rescue God appointed.
8. Close the activity by thanking Jesus for being the Savior to whom the Passover points.

Scripture Connection:

Exodus 12:13 | 1 Corinthians 5:7

TEACHER CLOSING

Read Exodus 12:13 one more time: "The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you."

Children, tonight we learned that God is holy, God keeps His word, and God provides rescue. The first Passover was a real event in which God saved His people from Egypt through the blood of the lamb. And that true event points us to Jesus, the greater Lamb, who gave His life so sinners can be forgiven.

If you belong to Jesus, thank Him for saving you. If you do not yet trust Him, call on Him. He is the Savior God promised.

Close in Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your true Word. Thank You for rescuing Your people in Egypt. Thank You for showing us through Passover that Jesus is the Savior we need. Help us trust Your Word, turn from sin, and believe in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.