



Leader Guide

The Passover

The Passover

Story of God- Leader Info

Big Idea:

God is able to deliver and protect all who cry out to Him, and He wants to use people to represent Him.

Scripture:

Exodus 5-15

Memory Verse:

I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

Exodus 6:7

Kids' City is changing up the lessons a little bit! We are starting on a journey together to understand the Story of God, and grow closer to Him and know Him better along the way! The lessons each week will now be chronological stories from the Bible told to the kids orally in a Story-formed way.

Stories are the most powerful form of communication we have. Stories speak to the mind, the body, and the emotions —our spirits. In a story, we can identify with situations we have never been in. Every culture and society of people that have ever existed has been this way. We are all storytellers and we all LOVE stories.

Jesus was a GREAT storyteller!

The disciples came up and asked, “Why do you tell stories?” Jesus replied, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understanding flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight.”

Matthew 13:10-13 (The Message)

Goals of Telling the Story

-To understand, experience, and intersect with God’s story.

-To become a ‘story-formed’ kids and people whose lives are daily shaped by the truths of the Story.

-To make disciples of Jesus who make disciples.

-To see and experience God’s “Redemptive Arc” throughout history as found in the Bible—seeing the connection between all of the stories— and seeing the Bible as one big story.

-To be moved by a Story that points to a God who constantly pursues us and desires to know us.

-To see the intersection of ours’ and the kids’ stories with God’s Story.

-To understand our identity differently in light of God’s story, who he is, and who he created us to be.

-To “live in the gospel”, seeing the world differently, seeking to further God’s Kingdom - to live missionally.

-To become excited about the biblical narratives, reading and learning more about them in the Bible.

-To learn to retell these stories and help others to see how they can find themselves in God’s story.

Introduction in Small Groups

Intro

Questions for the Kids about their week and to get them thinking about the lesson they will be going over.

1. What happened this past week that was really awesome?
2. What happened this past week that was a bummer?
3. Have you ever thought that you were in a situation that would be impossible to get out of?
4. Have you ever felt like God wasn't with you or for you?

Expected Behaviors

Go over the Expected Behaviors for the kids while they are in small group before Large Group begins.

1. Be respectful of others
2. Only one student speaks at a time
3. Listen quietly when others are speaking
4. Keep hands and feet to yourself
5. Follow the directions given by your leaders

Large Group

Game

Have the kids play a scavenger hunt game! Pass out the list of some vague descriptions of objects in the classroom to each of the kids. They have something written on them like "Something that opens and shuts" and "Something white." Tell the kids that they have to walk around the room and look for objects fitting the descriptions on the paper. After a student has found an object, he writes the object next to its description. The students cannot write down one object twice in the list. After a short period of time has passed (around five minutes), have the kids read their lists aloud. Whoever came up with the most objects wins the game.

Prayer, Offering, and Communion

Pray for the kids as they begin a new lesson, and ask the kids if they have anything specifically they would like to pray about! Pray for their requests during the week. Collect the offering if the kids have any, after the prayer. For the kids that have been baptized they can take communion at this time. Explain to the children that communion is a time for us to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross and thank Him for all He has done for us!

Review the Story from Last Week

Review the last stories a bit, focusing more on the most recent story, Moses.

What patterns do you notice about God in these stories?

What did God tell Jacob in the story?

How has God continued to keep his promises through the story of Joseph?

What did God call himself in the story of Moses and what does that tell us about him?

Tell the Story (Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)

Our last story told us a little about Moses and his life. Now he goes on to talk with Pharaoh, Egypt's leader. You'll never guess what happens next...

Moses and his brother Aaron met with Pharaoh and pleaded with him, "Let the Israelites leave Egypt for just three days to worship God. If you choose not to do this, God would punish the Egyptians severely."

But Pharaoh was stubborn and would not listen. He said, "Who is this God that I should listen to him? I don't know your God, and I am not letting you leave. You are just trying to create a distraction. Now, get back to work!"

After their meeting with Pharaoh things got worse for the Israelites. Pharaoh forced them to work faster and longer hours. Cruel slave masters pushed them to work harder and harder as they made bricks from mud and straw and worked in the fields.

So God sent a series of horrible plagues on the Egyptians and their land. But these plagues did not have any effect on the Israelites. The first plague turned the Nile River into blood. All of the fish died and the water smelled terrible and was undrinkable.

The second plague brought a mob of frogs that covered the entire country. These frogs were everywhere—in their bedrooms, kitchens and even in their pots and pans!

The third and fourth plagues brought gnats and flies. They covered all of the people and animals. Pharaoh's magicians tried to copy each of these plagues, but couldn't create gnats. They cried to Pharaoh, "God must be doing this to us!"

After each of these plagues Moses returned to Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelites go so they could worship God. But Pharaoh was stubborn and would not listen.

The fifth plague brought severe disease to Egypt's livestock, but none of the Israelites' cattle became sick!

The sixth plague caused the Egyptians to break out with horrible sores all over their bodies—so bad they couldn't sit or lay down!

As each of the plagues hit, Pharaoh would say, "Enough! If you stop the plagues, I will let you leave..." But after God stopped the plagues, Pharaoh still would not let them go. God had made Pharaoh even more stubborn, and he refused to listen.

The seventh and eighth plagues brought hail and locusts that destroyed every tree and plant in the land.

The locusts swept down and ate everything that wasn't wiped out by the hail.

The ninth plague brought complete darkness over the land for three days. No one could see anything except for the Israelites who still had light in their homes.

Despite all of these horrific events, Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites leave! God told Moses, “Pharaoh’s stubbornness will give me the opportunity to do even greater miracles in Egypt.”

So God would send one final plague...

Moses warned Pharaoh about this final plague saying, “This is what God says: ‘About midnight I will pass through Egypt. Every firstborn son will die—rich or poor—from Pharaoh’s son on down. And the Egyptians will weep loudly— but the Israelites will not be touched. Then you will beg the people of Israel to leave.’”

Moses left his meeting with Pharaoh burning with anger. In spite of this warning, Pharaoh still refused to let them go.

Then Moses and Aaron gave the Israelites instructions from God on how they could be saved from this plague. They told the people, “Each family is to select a sacrifice—a year-old male lamb or goat that is pure and without any defects (problems), and be careful not to break any of its bones. Then, take the blood from this sacrifice and put it on the doorframes of your home. This will be a sign for God to pass over your home and spare your firstborn.”

So the people of Israel did exactly what God told them to do. At midnight God came through Egypt and took the life of every firstborn son, but he passed over the homes that had blood on their doorframes.

All of Egypt woke during the night because of the loud weeping. Someone had died in nearly every Egyptian home including Pharaoh’s own son. The Egyptians begged the Israelites to leave right away. That night the Israelites, now numbering over two million, set out to return to their Promised Land of Canaan.

God guided them through the wilderness with a pillar made of clouds during the day and a pillar of fire at night.

Meanwhile, Pharaoh changed his mind again and sent his armies after the Israelites to catch them. As Pharaoh and his army approached, the people of Israel saw them in the distance and began to panic. They turned against Moses complaining, “Our slavery back in Egypt was better than dying out here in the wilderness!”

But Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid—God will rescue you today—he will fight for you!”

Then God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea. As he did this, God brought a huge wind that opened up a dry path for them to walk across! Pharaoh and his armies began to follow behind the Israelites. God told Moses to stretch out his hand again. This brought another huge wind that blew the sea back over Pharaoh and his armies, completely destroying them!

The people of Israel were in awe of God’s amazing power. They put their trust in God and also in his servant Moses.

Retell the Story

This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping your kids remember and own the story. You will want to help them retell the story by giving them leading questions like: So, where did the story begin? What were some of the problems God's people, the Israelites, had? How did they finally get out of Egypt?

Dialogue

Remember **this is a dialogue, not a quiz**. The questions are a good start to draw out observations about the story, and the "answers" are just there to help you guide kids toward some key ideas.

1. **Why is this story called "The Passover"?**
2. **Can you remember God's promise to Abraham? What parts of God's promise to Abraham do we see beginning to be fulfilled?**
3. **How many descendants did Abraham have in just a couple of generations?**
4. **How did God treat the Israelites' enemies?**
5. **Why do you think God would harden Pharaoh's heart? What did Pharaoh's stubbornness allow God to do?**
6. **Where is water mentioned in this story? How is this significant?**
7. **Where have we seen water mentioned in previous stories?**
8. **What did God specifically say about the animal they were to sacrifice? Why did it need to be pure?**
9. **Why do you think God required blood to be put on the Israelites door posts in order to be saved? What does blood represent, what does it mean?**
10. **How might you have felt that Passover night as a Hebrew? Would you have doubted that God would save you in this situation?**
11. **What does this story teach us about God?**
 - He keeps his promises (covenant, warnings to Pharaoh).
 - He is able to deliver and protect all who cry out to him.
 - He is powerful.
 - He cares for people.
 - He is the source of grace
 - He wants to use people to represent him.
 - He allows suffering.
 - His ways are sometimes hard for us to understand at first (he warned Pharaoh.).
 - He punishes injustice and wrong.

Application (Optional questions that may help apply the story)

12. **What questions do you have about the story?**
13. **What will you remember most about this story?**
14. **How does this story make a difference in your life?**
15. **What questions do you have from the story?**
16. **When is a time in your life you refused to listen to someone's good advice?**
17. **Have you ever celebrated a Seder Dinner or Passover Celebration? What was it like?**

Activity

Have the children watch the Moses video. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEOMFjGFS7M>) Afterwards there is an activity to draw the different plagues on a paper plate by dividing the plate into

ten sections. While you are talking with the children remind them that Jesus is our Passover lamb! That by his blood and death we are saved.

Extra Time Activities

If there is extra time, have the kids look up the passages from the story and read them out loud.