

Lesson 1: Introduction to Numbers and the Passover Repeated

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Be introduced to the book of Numbers and review what they have learned so far
- 2) Study Numbers 9 and Exodus 12: The Passover and its importance
- 3) See that God is powerful and we need to obey His commands.
- 4) Do activities that show the Passover and how it points to Christ

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- Some students at this age will still have trouble writing/reading so during paper activities help ensure children understand by reading instructions aloud so they can follow along.
- Help students who have difficulty sitting for long periods by sitting beside them to help them stay focused.
- Some children maybe too young to write or have a hard time writing, ensure you check on students and if you notice one has difficulty offer to help write part of a sentence or a word for them.

Supplies: Coordinator will ensure these supplies are ready for you in advance. If not discuss with him/her.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- The Passover Color Page – one per student
- Fill in the Blanks Passover and Jesus Page – one per student

Optional:

- Path Scramble Activity Sheet – one per child
- Popsicle Sticks – 5 for every 2-4 children
- Blank Paper – one for every 2-4 children
- Different colored fine-tipped markers (one for every 2-4 children)
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Bread without yeast – ask the person who prepares communion to make some for your class
or ask for the recipe to make yourself small piece for each child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Write in the name of each student on the chart and let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

Introduce yourself to the students, and if unfamiliar with their names, ask children to go around the room sharing their name so you can learn them. Say to students:

This quarter we will study the Old Testament and look at the book of Numbers. Numbers is part of the books of Law and is part of the first five books in the Old Testament. This is the book that continues the story of the Israelite people's wandering in the desert after escaping from Egypt. The book is called Numbers because the first part of this book describes the actual population of Israelites and the fact that God told Moses to take a census or counting of the people. If you have your Bibles let's find Numbers and turn there now.

2) Introduction to Numbers

5-10 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

We have been spending the past while studying the Old Testament from Genesis through to Exodus. We saw recently, Israel leave Egypt by the mighty hand of God. After a few days, Pharaoh was sorry he had let them go, so he chased them with the intent of bringing them back as slaves in Egypt. When Pharaoh caught up to Israel, he and his entire army were destroyed in the Red Sea, and Israel was safe and victorious with God as their leader and Moses as their guide.

Very soon, the Israelites began to grumble and complain as the desert could not sustain them. There was not enough food or water. Really, God was testing the people – and as we studied they failed that test! They grumbled, complained, argued, and fought with Moses until finally the Lord rained manna from heaven to feed them. He gave them quail as meat and gave water from the rocks. God wanted them to trust in Him - not in the physical surroundings and themselves. Pharaoh could not care for them, the land could not care for them, and even Moses could not care for them. Only God could provide!

God gathers them at Mount Sinai to hear His Law. From Exodus 19 through to Numbers 10 we see the Israelites at Mount Sinai. The principles God set in these Laws show us the attitude we too should have and the servant heart we need today under the New Testament.

Israel has come and will stay at Mount Sinai for almost 2 years before journeying on. Over the next few weeks, we are going to look at several things during this period of time as they begin their journey toward the Promised Land. In Leviticus we quickly studied that the people of Israel were taught how to worship God. Each sacrifice and offering was explained with the focus on the holiness of God. Since He alone is holy, we too, like the Israelites should worship Him as we are commanded. We saw that we worship God differently than they did, but we still need to remember that what God says.....we do and we should worship Him as He commands because He is holy!

Today we are starting Numbers. In Numbers 1-4 a census is taken. That means counting all the men in the tribes of Israel. At the end we see there are over 605,000 men! This is to fulfill part of Abraham's promise by God that Abraham would become a great nation.

Numbers 5-6 – God commands that the people be purified. This involves a ceremony that purifies them as a nation and makes them holy in God's sight.

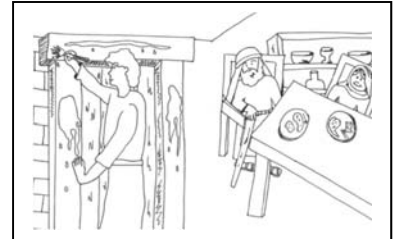
As we saw earlier, God gave them commands to build the tabernacle (or the tent). In Numbers 5-8 the tabernacle is set up and furnished. And now the Israelites – which we will study today – in Numbers 9 are to celebrate the first Passover since leaving Egypt that is recorded.

3) Passover Fill in the Blank and Color Page

15-20 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Hand out one sheet of the Passover color page to each child along with crayons. Ask them to color quietly while they listen to how God described the events of the Passover and how the Israelites were supposed to partake in it. Tell the children to color the part you are describing. Example – when God describes how the door is supposed to be covered in blood – have the children color that – then continue the story and have them color the next part until the entire story is read and the color page is complete.



Parts to read:

Exodus 12:1-7 – then have the children color the door and the blood

Exodus 12:8-14 – have students color the family eating. Then read

Exodus 12:26-30 to finish up.

Explain to them: **As we remembered from Exodus, the Passover was a private celebration in their homes. Everyone went to their homes, gathered their families, ate unleavened bread (bread without yeast) with bitter herbs, along with wine and remembered the sadness that occurred – the plagues - to make it possible for them to serve God.**

We will look again at how this relates to us under the New Testament thanks to Jesus sacrifice, we too (once we are baptized) take of the bread and drink the fruit of the vine to remember the sacrifice of Christ that was needed to make it possible for us to be saved and serve God. But when we take of the Lord's Supper we also can think of the joy we have knowing Christ is at God's right hand and is offering us blessings and salvation as we serve and worship Him!

For older students have them answer the questions and then do the fill in the blank sheet.

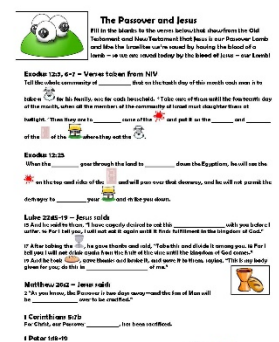
Discussion Questions: **Raise your hand if you can answer the questions I am about to ask.**

Can anyone tell me what the Passover included?

Why did they do the Passover? See verse Exodus 12:26-27

Hand out Fill in the Blank sheet to each older child and ask them to get their Bibles. Read the instructions aloud and work as a group to find out how the verses in Exodus relate to the death of Jesus –our Lamb; and how, thanks to Jesus, we are saved – just like the Israelites were.

Answers: Israel	lamb	take	blood	sides
tops	doorframes	houses	lambs	Lord
strike	blood	doorframes	enter	house
Passover	cup	bread	remembrance	handed
lamb	silver	gold	blood	lamb



*Check over answers with students and read the completed verse before moving on as some students will just fill in the blanks but not read the verse to understand what it says. See if there are any questions before moving on.

Discussion Questions:

What was the thing that was to be sacrificed in the Old Testament during the Passover? A lamb

What was sacrificed in the New Testament during the Passover? Jesus – the lamb

How are the lamb in the Old and New Testament the same? – look at the verses we just looked at for help if needed. Ideas include: Innocent, needed blood to save the people

How are the lambs in the Old and New Testament different? – look at the verses we just looked at for help if needed. Ideas include: The Old Testament used an animal, now we needed the blood of Jesus – the Son of God – who was called the Lamb but was really God's Son. The lamb in the Old Testament was to save the people from losing their firstborn son, the Lamb in the New Testament Jesus, saves everyone who follows him not just the firstborn son.

What weekly command do we do today that is similar to the Passover from the Old Testament?
The Lord's Supper

Any questions? Answer from the Bible if you can, or tell them you will come back to them next week with an answer if you need to look things up or ask your preacher for help ☺

Read Numbers 9:1-8 (ask for a volunteer or read it yourself)

Discussion Questions:

What was the wise thing Moses said he needed to do before making a decision? Go to God!

What can we learn from this for us today? How should we make decisions? We should pray, look for the answer in the Bible, talk to older/wiser people in our church family who may know or give guidance...etc.

Moses was wise to ask the people to wait. Sometimes people ask us questions and we want to jump in and give an answer right away, without checking with God first. What problems might occur if we do that? Let students answer.

Let's read Numbers 9:8-14 (ask for a volunteer or read it yourself)

Did God have specific things He wanted the Israelites to do when celebrating the Passover? Yes!

Does God have specific things He wants us to do when serving Him today? Yes!

We partake of the Lord's Supper the first day of the week (Sunday) because God inspired the apostles to write of it and partake of it every Sunday. Should we partake of it on another day?

No! **Why?** Because just like the Israelites, those that did not partake of it properly for no reason other than being unclean from a dead body or being away on a journey - that person would be cut off from the people – the Israelites. (See verse 13) When God commands us to do something, we have no right or reason to not listen. He is God, He is holy, He knows what is best – and we are wise to follow Him!

4) Optional: Popsicle Stick Quiz

10-15 minutes

Form teams of two to four kids. Give each team five Popsicle sticks and a sheet of paper. They give each team a different colored fine-tip marker. Assign a section of a lesson to each team:

Team 1: Numbers 9:1-5 and Exodus 12:43-49 – The Passover

Team 2: Numbers 9:6-14 – Moses asks God about the Passover regulations

(Try to ensure younger children are put with older children so they can have help and guidance in reading and writing). Have each team make up five questions and answers from the lesson and write them down on its sheet of paper. Teams should number the questions and the Popsicle sticks one through five. For example: if you have three teams you will have 15 sticks numbered in three different colors. Collect all the Popsicle sticks. Have kids sit in a circle or at the table with each team sitting near each other. Drop all the sticks in a small pile in the middle of the circle or table.

Choose one team to go first. The team sends one person to pick up a stick – it can't be theirs! Only one stick can be moved. If any other sticks move, the team forfeits its turn like in the game Pick-up Sticks. Have the player read the number and the color of the stick he or she picked up. The team with that color reads the question with that number. The team that drew the stick answers the question. If the team members answer correctly, they keep the stick, if not, they must return the stick to the pile.

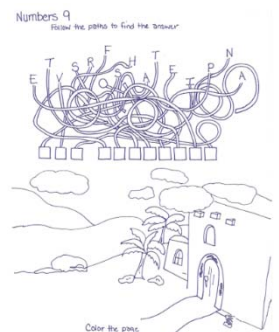
Then, the next team draws a stick. If a team picks their own stick, they must put it back and get another one. (For younger students, who may want to allow them to get a stick even if they move others as it will be more difficult for them). The game is over when the sticks are all gone from the pile in the middle. Have each team count its Popsicle sticks. The team with the most sticks wins!

5) Optional: Path Scramble Activity Sheet

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with pencil crayons. Read the instructions allowed and let children discover the word that the paths lead to – the **answer is THE PASSOVER**.

If time let them color the page at the bottom while they wait for everyone to finish.



6) Optional – Snack: Bread without yeast

5 minutes

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, **“Today we saw that the Israelites were to partake of the Passover again. During the Passover the Israelites were told to make bread without yeast as part of the preparation for the Passover. Because, they were preparing to have God Passover them and keep them safe as well they were preparing to leave Egypt! So to help us see what it was like, we are going to eat bread without yeast just like the Israelites.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking. *For bread without yeast – ask the person who prepares the communion to share some of the bread or ask for the recipe to make your own for the students.

7) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you from song list and/or choose song below:

We will Listen and Obey *(to the tune of Old MacDonald had a Farm)*

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

With a Yes Lord here and a Yes Lord there

Here a Yes, There a Yes, Everywhere a Yes! Yes!

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray. Remember to also ask God for help in studying the Old Testament to realize and learn how important it is in showing us and everyone that God had a plan with Jesus from the beginning and that we too need to remember to ask God for help, like Moses and to do as God commands as the Israelites were told too. By doing so, we will be blessed and have God in our presence and please Him!

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!