

# FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

## GOD'S COVENANT WITH MOSES

TOPIC: EXODUS PASSOVER – JESUS IS THE LAMB OF GOD

### GOAL:

Families will identify the Passover's foreshadowing of the Holy Eucharist

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

Sacred Scripture: Ex 12; Lk 22:7-20; Jn 19:14-16  
CCC: nos. 571-72, 608, 613, 1337-40, 1362

### MATERIALS

- Bibles
- [Moses and the Burning Bush Coloring Sheet](#)
- [Moses and the Plagues Coloring Sheet](#)
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Notecards for Ice Breaker

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,

We entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples.

Amen.

### ICE BREAKER

*Build a Leaning Tower*

Give each family a set of 25 note cards (& whatever additional materials you may want to use).

Participants are to build the highest tower that they can, using only the materials given. Nothing else can be used, and the tower cannot lean on or be supported by anything. After 10 minutes, see who has the highest, free-standing tower!

Adapted from [www.idtech.com](http://www.idtech.com)



# FAMILY SHARING

As a reminder, model again for families by briefly sharing your own *Family Lenten Plan*. Then ask each family to share about their *Family Lenten Plan* and how it relates to the three Lenten Pillars of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. (Remind everyone about how the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation will be made available at your parish during Lent.)

Invite families that brought in a sacramental or a picture of their home altar to share those items and talk about why they are important to their family.

## REVIEW MAIN CONCEPT

Let's Review!

In Week 1 we looked at how the baby Moses foreshadowed Jesus' escape into Egypt.

## CONTENT

### Invite:

- Please open your bibles to Exodus Chapter 2.
- Hand out coloring sheets (see materials list above for link), crayons or colored pencils and allow younger children to color sheets while the lesson is being presented.

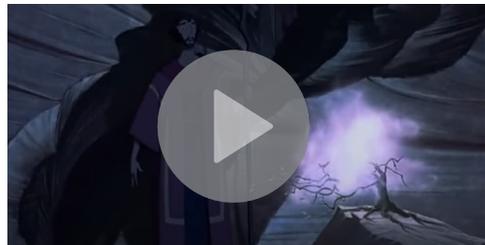
**Explain:** At our last gathering we talked about how the infant Moses was found in the Nile River in a basket and was adopted by the Pharaoh's daughter. Moses grew up as royalty and lived in the Egyptian palace until he was about 40 years old.

**Read:** [Exodus 2:11-22](#)

**Explain:** So for another 40 years Moses lived as a shepherd in the desert with his new family, a Midianite tribe, until God decided it was time to free His people, Israel.

**Read:** [Exodus 2:23-25](#)

**Continue Reading:** [Exodus 2:26-4:17](#) or watch *The Prince of Egypt* (1998) Scene: "I am that I am"/Burning bush (3:53 min).



**Explain:** Then Moses went to Egypt with his brother Aaron. Moses was somewhat shy and not confident about his speaking ability, so God said Aaron could help Moses speak to the people and to Pharaoh. Moses told Pharaoh that the Lord wanted Pharaoh to let the Israelite slaves go into the desert to worship Him. Pharaoh said "NO!" and increased the slaves' work as a punishment for having asked to leave.

However, the fight between God and Pharaoh had just begun! God sent Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh again.

# CONTENT CONTINUED

**Read:** Exodus 7:8-24

**Explain:** Nine more times Moses went before Pharaoh asking him to let the Israelites go, and each time Pharaoh refused. God gave Pharaoh many opportunities to change. God sent frogs, gnats, flies, pestilence that tortured both humans and animals, painful boils, hail and lightning, locusts that ate all the plants, and three frightening days of complete darkness. No matter what God did, no matter what plague He sent to the Egyptian people, or how terribly they suffered, Pharaoh hardened his heart. But the tenth and final plague was the worst one of all.

**Read:** Then the Lord told Moses, “One more plague I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. After that he will let you depart. In fact, when he finally lets you go, he will drive you away.” (Ex 11:1)

Moses went before Pharaoh for the last time.

Moses then said, “Thus says the LORD; About midnight I will go forth through Egypt. Every firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne to the first-born of the slave-girl who is at the handmill, as well as all the firstborn of the animals. Then there will be loud wailing throughout the land of Egypt, such as has never been, nor will ever be again. But among all the Israelites, among human beings and animals alike, not even a dog will growl, so that you may know that the Lord distinguishes between Egypt and Israel. All these servants of yours will then come down to me and bow down before me, saying: Leave, you and all your followers! Then I will depart.” With that he (Moses) left Pharaoh’s presence in hot anger. (Ex 11: 4-8)



But Pharaoh still would not let God’s people go.

**Invite:** Please turn to Exodus 12.

**Explain:** In Exodus 12 God gives the Israelites very specific instructions. If they obey and follow His instructions, they will save all of their firstborn children from death. God tells Moses and Aaron exactly what to tell the Israelite families to do. Each family must get a male lamb without blemish, meaning perfectly healthy without any disease or sickness. On the day and time that God chose, all the families would gather together and slaughter their lambs. They would take some of their lamb’s blood and mark their two doorposts and the lintel of their homes. Then the Israelites were to eat the lamb.

**Read:** Exodus 12:11-13

**Explain:** Because of Pharaoh's stubbornness, God had declared that all the firstborn in the land of Egypt would die. The Israelites lived in the land of Egypt, so even they were at risk. However, for the Israelite families whose front doors were marked with the blood of the lamb, death would not take them. Instead, death would "pass over" their homes, because the lambs that they had sacrificed had taken the place of their firstborn. In this way the sacred lambs redeemed, or bought back, or paid the price for, the Israelites' firstborn.

Because they were about to suddenly escape Egypt, the Israelite families were directed to pack some unleavened bread, a type of bread that has no yeast in it and would take less time to make.

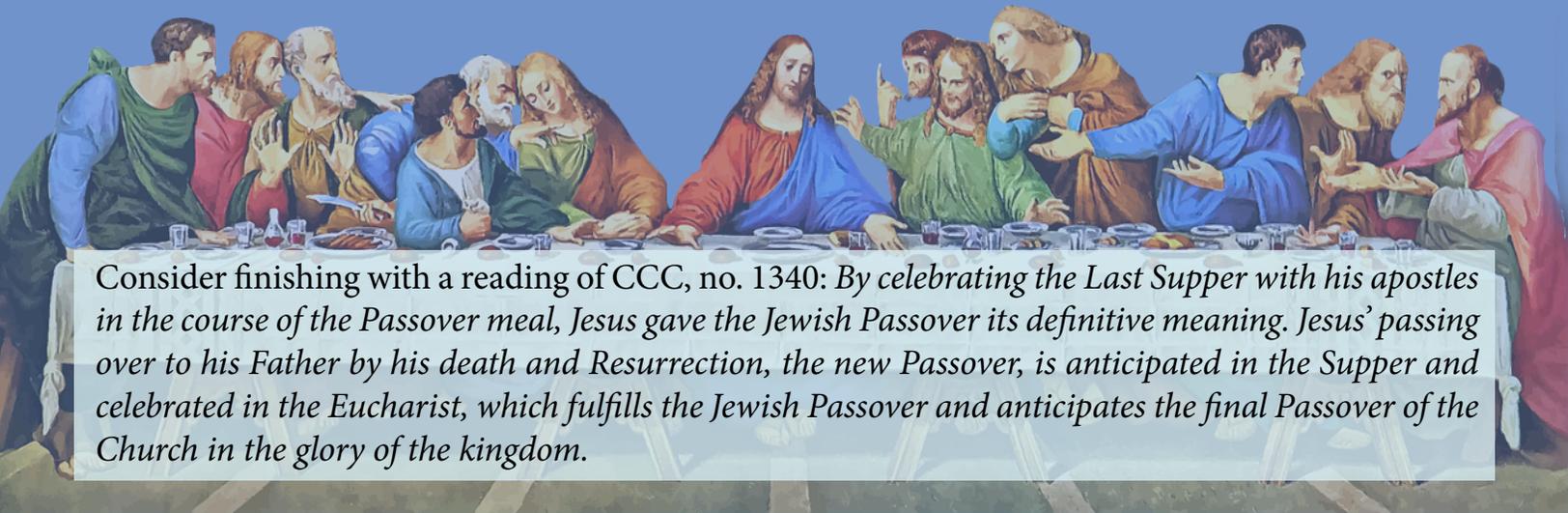
**Read:** Exodus 12:14-15

## FAMILY CONVERSATION

Do you see any clues from this Passover story that point to Jesus? What are they? Are there any clues that remind you of the Eucharist or the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass?

Some answers:

- The Israelites' sacrificial lambs redeemed or took the place of their firstborn – Jesus is the Passover or Paschal Lamb of God who redeems us or pays the price for our sins, taking our sins and their consequences (suffering and death) upon Himself.
- Moses, in obedience to God, freed the Israelites from slavery – Jesus, as the obedient Son of God the Father, frees and rescues us from slavery to sin, death, and the devil.
- The Israelites' lambs had to be without blemish – Jesus is the Lamb of God who was perfect and without sin. *Not a bone of it will be broken* (see Jn 19:36 and Ex 12:46).
- The Passover lamb had to be eaten for the sacrifice to be complete – In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus gives Himself, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, to us as food and drink, and we eat the Body of Christ and drink the Blood of Christ in Holy Communion.
- The Passover is a memorial feast recalling the saving event for the people of Israel in the here and now as if it were happening now – The Holy Mass is a memorial feast that not only recalls but also actually makes present (re-presents) the one, saving Sacrifice of Christ.
- Passover was for all generations to be celebrated as a perpetual institution – The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the fulfillment of Passover, a perpetual institution that is for all generations: *Do this in memory of me.*
- Unleavened bread was eaten at the Passover meal – Unleavened bread is used in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and is consecrated and transformed into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ (i.e., transubstantiation).



Consider finishing with a reading of CCC, no. 1340: *By celebrating the Last Supper with his apostles in the course of the Passover meal, Jesus gave the Jewish Passover its definitive meaning. Jesus' passing over to his Father by his death and Resurrection, the new Passover, is anticipated in the Supper and celebrated in the Eucharist, which fulfills the Jewish Passover and anticipates the final Passover of the Church in the glory of the kingdom.*

## PRAY

Dear God,

Holy One, we ask You to help each member of our family here to be completely humble and gentle in all their interactions; and to be patient, bearing with one another's faults in love – even when we're tired, frustrated, angry, or hurt. Thank You for sending Your Son who gave His life to save us from our sins and for the gift of the Holy Eucharist. Give us Your grace and help us to make every effort to remain united in the Holy Spirit within our homes.

Please bind us together in peace.

Amen.

*Adapted from [www.xavier.edu](http://www.xavier.edu)*

## REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.

