



Passover Handout

Session Theme: Sacraments

Activity: Yarn Web

Scripture Story: *Exodus 12:21-40 (The Message)*

Video Clip: Walking Across
Egypt

21 Moses assembled all the elders of Israel. He said, "Select a lamb for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop (an aromatic herb) and dip it in the bowl of the lamb's blood and smear it on the lintel (top of the doorframe) and on the two doorposts. No one is to leave the house until morning. 23 God will pass through to strike Egypt down. When he sees the blood on the lintel and the two door posts, God will pass over the doorway; he won't let the destroyer enter your house to strike you down with ruin. 24 "Keep this word. It's the law for you and your children, forever. 25 When you enter the land which God will give you as he promised, keep doing this. 26 And when your children say to you, 'Why are we doing this?' 27 tell them: 'It's the Passover-sacrifice to God who passed over the homes of the Israelites in Egypt when he hit Egypt with death but rescued us.'" The people bowed and worshiped. 28 The Israelites then went and did what God had commanded Moses and Aaron. They did it all.

29 At midnight God struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, right down to the firstborn of the prisoner locked up in jail. Also the firstborn of the animals.

30 Pharaoh got up that night, he and all his servants and everyone else in Egypt - what wild wailing and lament in Egypt! There wasn't a house in which someone wasn't dead. 31 Pharaoh called in Moses and Aaron that very night and said, "Get out of here and be done with you - you and your Israelites! Go worship God on your own terms. 32 And yes, take your sheep and cattle as you've insisted, but go. And bless me."

33 The Egyptians couldn't wait to get rid of them; they pushed them to hurry up, saying, "We're all as good as dead." 34 The people grabbed their bread dough before it had risen, bundled their bread bowls in their cloaks and threw them over their shoulders. 35 The Israelites had already done what Moses had told them; they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold things and clothing. 36 God saw to it that the Egyptians liked the people and so readily gave them what they asked for. Oh yes! They picked those Egyptians clean. 37 The Israelites moved on from Rameses to Succoth, about 600,000 on foot, besides their dependents. 38 There was also a crowd of riffraff tagging along, not to mention the large flocks and herds of livestock. 39 They baked unraised cakes with the bread dough they had brought out of Egypt; it hadn't raised - they'd been rushed out of Egypt and hadn't time to fix food for the journey. 40 The Israelites had lived in Egypt 430 years.

NOTES

- There is a direct correlation between death and freedom in this story. The death of the firstborn child in every Egyptian family leads to the emancipation of the Israelites. The death of lambs and the displayed blood of the lambs keeps the firstborn Israelite children alive. A powerful reminder that freedom isn't free.
- What are the Israelites supposed to do with their freedom? In verse 31, as Pharaoh says, "Go and worship on your own terms." God desires freedom for the Israelites, but not so they can just do whatever they want. But so that they can receive God's healing power and then be God's light to the world.