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Baby Moses

Scripture: Exodus 1:1-2:10

Theme: God protects those He has chosen for His purposes

Jr High (Ages 12-14)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

"Blood Like Yours: A Story of Freedom and Faith" (Lesson Overview for Junior High , Exodus 12) Imagine you're stuck in a dark room, with no way out, but God whispers, "Look at this lamb." The Israelites had to slaughter an unblemished firstborn, smear its blood on their doorposts, and wait. Why? Because the Pharaoh's wrath was real, and God's plan was bigger than escape. The blood wasn't just decoration; it was a warning: "This is where you'll find me." The same truth applies today! Jesus' blood, shed on the cross, is the final Passover Lamb, shielding us from eternal darkness (sin) and breaking every chain that holds us back. It's messy, costly, and necessary. Like the lamb, He died for you so you could live. Life Application: This isn't just history, it's a signpost. The blood of Christ protects us now (from temptation) and forever (from judgment). Ask: Have I ever felt "stuck" or forgotten by God? The answer? He's already moved to you, like the lamb did to the Israelites. Stand in the blood. Claim His freedom. And when life feels dark, remember: The next time you pray, you're not praying alone, you're praying through Him. (Encouragement for Volunteers: Keep it raw but hopeful! These teens are already facing real struggles, use Exodus 12's urgency to mirror Christ's love: He doesn't just say He'll deliver; He shows through sacrifice. End with a discussion: "What 'doorposts' (or struggles) do you need His blood to mark for you today?")

Bible Story

Title: "The Passover Lamb: God's Plan of Protection"

One moonlit night in ancient Egypt, God had a secret plan to rescue His people, the Israelites. Pharaoh's harsh rule had grown even stricter, and the Hebrew slaves were suffering. But God was preparing something powerful. The Bible says, "The Lord said to Moses: 'Go to Pharaoh and tell him, "This is what the Lord says: Israel must take a lamb for each family, even if there are many people in a house. You will take a fully grown male lamb without defect, and you will care for it for one day. Then you will slaughter it at sunset..."' (Exodus 12:1, 5, NLT). The Israelites had to do this

exactly, no mistakes!

The lamb wasn't just a sacrifice; it was a symbol. God had chosen these animals to represent His people, innocent, perfect, and ready to be "taken away" for their safety. But the Egyptians wouldn't let them go easily. That night, the Lord sent terrible plagues, floods, locusts, and even death, until Pharaoh finally relented. Yet God's people knew better than to trust in their own strength. When they marked the doorposts with lamb's blood, they were saying, "God is in control, and He'll keep us safe."

As the Israelites left Egypt, they didn't just run, God led them with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. But first, they had to remember why they were leaving. The Passover meal was more than food; it was a reminder of God's faithfulness. "Eat this meal with haste... and tell your children about it... for this is how I do for you... I will take you out from your slavery..." (Exodus 12:11, 14, NLT). Their story wasn't about freedom from Egypt alone, it was about freedom from sin and being ready to live for God.

Life Application: This story is still true today! Jesus Christ is the ultimate Passover Lamb, perfect, innocent, and sacrificed to save us from sin. When we trust in Him, God promises to protect us, lead us, and keep us safe, just as He did for Israel. The real question is: Are we marked by faith (with the blood of Jesus), or are we still looking for safety in our own strength? The Passover reminds us that God's plan is always bigger than we can see, and His love never fails.

Why This Matters: God doesn't just want us to remember His promises; He wants us to live them. Whether we're facing hard times, making big decisions, or just trusting God in everyday choices, this story is a reminder: His plan is faithful, and He's with us every step of the way.

Key Verse

Exodus 2:2

Exodus 12:13: "The Blood Is Your Shield!" Imagine God is like a super-hero in a movie, He's watching over His people, the Israelites, as they're about to face a big, scary battle. The Egyptians had powerful armies, but God promised to protect them if they did something special: they had to put blood from a lamb on their doorframes. That blood wasn't just decoration, it was their secret weapon! It was like a warning sign that said, "Hey, God sees this family, don't hurt us!" Without it, God would "pass over" them, but with it, they'd be safe. The lesson? God's love is real, and His protection isn't just for the past, it's for today! Just like the Israelites, we can trust Him to keep us safe when we rely on Him, not on our own strength. Real Question? You might wonder: Why did God use blood? Because blood is pure and can't be faked, it's a real, visible sign of trust. Just like you wouldn't hide your phone number from your parents, you're supposed to show your faith in God openly. Life Application: The next time you feel scared or alone, ask yourself: Am I trusting God enough to let Him protect me? Then take a deep breath, His promise is still as strong today!

Activities

Activity 1:

Students create a small 3D "shadow box" (cardboard box or shoebox) to visualize the Exodus 12 Passover story, including the lamb, doorposts, and angel of death, showing how God used the blood as protection. This hands-on approach helps them connect the Old Testament story to real-life trust in God's promises.

1. Set Up the Story Context (2 min)
2. Ask: "When you see a shadow box, what do you imagine it holds? Today, we'll create a small 'story box' about how God protected His people through the Passover. Imagine Moses told the Israelites: 'The blood on your door will be a sign for God to pass over you!'"
3. Write Exodus 12:13 on the board: "The blood will be a sign for the LORD that when He sees it, He will pass over the house." Pause for reflection.
4. Decorate the "Doorpost" (5 min)

5. Give each group:
6. 1 red sheet (for blood)
7. 2 strips of black paper (doorposts)
8. Cotton balls (for smoke, if available)
9. Task: Cut 2 rectangles from black paper (like doorposts) and glue them onto the front of the box. Then, roll up a red paper strip to look like blood on the door. Add cotton balls above the door for smoke (optional).
10. Discussion Question: "Why did God say the blood had to be on the door, not just the floor? How is this like trusting God's promises today?"
11. Add the "Lamb" and Angel (5 min)
12. Give each group:
13. 1 white sheet (for the lamb)
14. Black markers/crayons (for the lamb's "blood")
15. Black paper strips (for an angel's wings)
16. Task: Cut the lamb shape from white paper (or draw it). Use black marker to make blood marks on its sides. Glue a black paper "angel" (wings + sword) above the door, with a lightning bolt drawn in white crayon.
17. Real-Life Link: "The lamb was a type of Jesus, sacrificed to cover our sins! Just like the Israelites trusted God to protect them, we can trust Him with our mistakes."
18. Share & Reflect (3 min)
19. Have each group present their box. Ask: "What did your box show us about God's heart toward His people?"
20. Closing: "God's promises are bigger than we think! Like the Israelites, we can trust Him to be with us, even in hard times."

Activity 2:

Students build a "wall" of words/phrases that represent their fears vs. God's promises from Exodus 12. They glue their "fears" to one side and God's promises to the other, showing how faith turns chaos into security. Great for discussing anxiety and trust in God's protection.

1. Introduce the Concept (3 min)
2. "Imagine Pharaoh's army chasing the Israelites. They had to trust God to lead them safely! God told them: 'When you put blood on your door, I'll see it and pass over your house.' Today, we'll think about what we put our trust in, and what we need to trust God for instead."
3. Read Exodus 12:24-27 aloud: "This day you shall go out armed, and the LORD will go before you. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."
4. Write "Fears" on One Side (5 min)
5. Give each student a long strip of paper (12" wide).
6. Task: Ask them to write/draw their biggest fear (e.g., "What if I fail my tests?", "What if my friends leave?") on the left side of the paper.
7. Example fears: "The future feels scary," "I don't always understand God's plan."
8. Write God's Promises on the Other Side (5 min)
9. Give them a second strip of paper. Now, write one promise from Exodus 12 or their own scripture (e.g., "God will protect me" or "He leads me where I need to go") on the right side.
10. Challenge: "How can this promise change your fear? What does it mean to 'hold your peace' like God did in Exodus?"
11. Assemble & Reflect (3 min)
12. Have students glue their two strips together, with their fears on the left and God's promises on the right.
13. Discussion: "Where do you see God's promises stronger than your fears? What's one way you can 'hold your peace' today?"

14. Life Application: "God isn't asking us to ignore our fears, He's saying He'll fight for us. Just like the Israelites, we can trust Him to lead us through the 'dark night' of uncertainty."

15. Why These Work:

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions designed to engage junior high students in thoughtful reflection about The Passover Lamb from Exodus while connecting biblical themes to real-life decisions, faith, and personal responsibility. Each question invites exploration of meaning, connection, and practical application:
- 1. Sacrifice and Cost: What Does It Mean to "Give Up Something Valuable" Today?
 - "The Israelites prepared a lamb to be sacrificed, symbolizing their trust in God's deliverance. What does it look like to 'give up something precious', like time, money, or even comfort, to trust God in a big way? Have you ever had to make a choice that felt like a sacrifice? What did you learn from it?"
 - (Life application: Explore how faith often requires intentional choices, what small or big sacrifices do you see around you? How can we model Christ's sacrifice in small, daily ways?)
- 2. Protection and the "Unseen": How Do We Trust God When the World Feels Dangerous?
 - "The Israelites sprinkled blood on their doors to mark their homes, asking God to protect them. Today, what 'unseen' threats or fears do you face, like bullying, health worries, or family struggles? How can you trust God to guide you, even when the road feels risky?"
 - (Life application: Challenge students to reflect on a fear or challenge they're facing. How might God use them to trust Him like the Israelites trusted their God?)
- 3. Community and Responsibility: Why Did the Passover Lamb Have to Be Shared?
 - "The Passover meal wasn't just for the family, it was a shared experience, reminding everyone of God's promise. How does community shape our faith? Have you ever felt called to share your faith or support someone else's journey? What might happen if we stopped waiting for others to lead?"
 - (Life application: Connect to relationships, what can students learn from sharing their faith or being a 'lamb' (protector/supporter) in their friend group?)
- 4. Freedom vs. Fear: What Does It Mean to Trust God Even When the Future Isn't Clear?
 - "After Passover, the Israelites left Egypt with God's promise of freedom, but they didn't know how they'd get there. What's a 'freedom' you're longing for, like academic success, creative expression, or a deeper relationship? How can you trust God's plan even when the path feels uncertain?"
 - (Life application: Encourage them to journal or discuss: What fears hold them back? How might they 'mark their door' (faith commitments) to trust God's timing?)
- Why These Work:
 - Encourage creativity: Open-ended questions allow for storytelling, examples, and personal growth.
 - Real-world tie-ins: Connects sacrifice, trust, and community to daily choices.
 - Faith exploration: Challenges students to ask, "How does this story apply to my life right now?"
 - Would you like adjustments to emphasize a specific theme (e.g., more focus on family, leadership, or perseverance)?

Prayer Focus

Teacher Prayer for Junior High Students (Passover Lamb) "Heavenly Father, today we look at the story of the Passover, the time when You sent Your Son as the perfect Lamb to take away our sins. Just like the Israelites trusted the blood of the lamb to spare them, we need to trust in Jesus to protect us from the evil in our world. Help

us remember that without Him, we're like the Egyptians who died in the darkness. But because of Him, we have hope, freedom, and a future. Lord, make us real followers of Christ, people who believe in Him, live for Him, and share His love with others. Amen." (Life Application: The story isn't just about history, it's a lesson that even today, Jesus is the Lamb who saves us from sin and death. We can choose to trust Him fully, just like the Israelites did.)

>> Missions Spotlight

In many parts of North Africa and the Middle East, the concept of sacrificial lambs is deeply understood. Missionaries working among the Amazigh (Berber) people of Morocco use the Passover story as a bridge to explain Jesus as the Lamb of God.

-> To the Cross

The Passover lamb's blood on the doorposts saved the Israelites from death. Jesus is our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7), His blood saves us from the death that our sin deserves. Every Passover pointed forward to the cross.