

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: The Last Supper (pt. 1)

Learning Goals: Students should have the opportunity to review their knowledge of the Passover and compare that to the ministry of Jesus.

Question: What was the Passover? Why was it important?

Prayer

Discuss Question on Board

Matthew

Preparations for the Passover seem similar to the preparations for the Triumphal entry. Jesus says to go into the city and there will be a man there. The disciples are to tell him that the Teacher is going to eat the Passover there with his disciples. It sounds similar to the instructions given to the disciples regarding the man with the donkey.

- Who is this man?
- How are the disciples supposed to recognize him?
- Are we to assume that he will know who “the Teacher” is?
- Why is this one unknown and nameless person included at this high holy moment with Jesus and his inner circle?

Maybe have the students recount the story of the Passover as much as possible.

Review the Exodus story:

End of the Joseph narrative in Genesis, the people of Israel are in Egypt

400 years pass between Genesis and Exodus

God raises up Moses to deliver the people.

Moses gives God excuses:

Who am I? (3:11) = I’m not good enough - I will be with you

Who are you? (3:13) = I don’t know enough - revelation of the Divine Name YHWH

What if they believe me? - sign of staff to snake; hand turned leprous

But I don’t speak well. - Who made your mouth and gave you speech?

Send someone else. = I don’t wanna go - I’ll send your brother Aaron with you

Goes to Pharaoh, but he will not listen and will not release the Israelites.

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| <i>Plagues:</i> | 1. Nile turned to Blood | 4. Flies | 7. Thunder and Hail |
| | 2. Frogs | 5. Livestock Diseased | 8. Locusts |
| | 3. Gnats | 6. Boils | 9. Darkness |

10. Death of the firstborn - historical grounding for the feast of Passover started as a family festival but became one of the most important festivals of the year retold the story of the Exodus every year

Passover meal is a remembrance of these events, especially of the last plague and the angel of death “passing over” the Israelite households. They were to keep this meal every year. It was one of the festivals that people would travel to Jerusalem to attend.

Elements of the Passover Meal:

1. A Passover lamb cooked and eaten that night (that night in Egypt when only the blood of the lamb protected them from the angel of death)
2. Unleavened bread (they didn't have enough time leaving Egypt to wait for the bread to rise or to bake bread)
3. Bowl of salt water (tear of their captivity and crossing the Red Sea)
4. The Bitter Herbs (bitterness of their bondage)
5. Four cups of red wine mixed with water (a reminder of God's promises (Ex. 6:6-7))
6. Eaten with a hat and a coat on, ready to go at any moment

Then a song or hymn would be sung and the leader would explain the story of the Exodus (retell God's redemption of his people).

Why would this have been important in Jesus' ministry?

- Keeping the law/tradition
- Jesus is bringing a new exodus (connection to baptism - desert, passing through water; temptation - 40 days; Lord's Prayer; Sermon on the Mount)

Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Passover