

Teach Me to Worship

THIS MONTH
We Will...



Learn

Week One—Remember the Doorpost

Week Two—Remember the Cross

Week Three—Jesus's Example in
Baptism

Week Four—The Sign of the Promise

Read

- Exodus 12:14–28
- Luke 22:7–20
- John 1:29–30, 35–37;
Matthew 3:13–17
- Acts 2:37–41; 16:13–15, 25–34

Sing

- “Amazing Grace”

Memorize

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**”
— John 1:29



Remember the Doorpost

LEADER'S Review

SUPPLIES

Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*
- First Catechism Questions (1 copy/child)
- Letter to Parents (1 copy/family)

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs* (*Optional: guitar or music to sing along with*)
- Basket for offering*
- All supplies needed for "Celebrating the Passover Activity" (See instruction sheet.)

OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons* (*Found in the introduction section.*)

*These items will be needed every week.

Sacraments as defined by the Heidelberg Catechism "are visible, holy signs and seals . . . instituted by God so that by our use of them He might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel, and seal that promise" (Q.66). Notice the words: signs and seals. The challenge this month is to help our children "see" these signs God has given to the Church as evidence of the covenant He has made with His people and has kept through Jesus Christ.

As you teach about the Lord's Supper and baptism, show the children the connections between how God's promises to His people are illustrated in the Church and how they were illustrated to the people of Israel in the Old Testament. In this first week's lesson, explain the Passover feast was instituted as the Israelites prepared to flee Egypt and that each element represented a sign of the Messiah to come. Then teach the connection between the Passover and the Last Supper which Christ celebrated with His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion. The following week's lesson will examine the Lord's Supper as a meal of both remembrance of Christ's work and the hope to come.

Each week remind the children to seriously consider what the elements represent as they observe communion being served during worship services. You may even want to invite an elder into your classroom to show the elements, the bread and the cup, used for communion in your church and to demonstrate the steps followed in the communion service. Finally, remind the children that these elements are visual aids which Christ instructed His followers to use to "confirm our entire salvation rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross" (Heidelberg Catechism Q. 67).





(Confessing the Word—Continued)

137. Q: What sign is used in the Lord's Supper?

A: Eating bread and drinking wine to remember the suffering and death of Jesus

138. Q: What does the bread represent?

A: Christ's body sacrificed for our sins

139. Q: What does the wine represent?

A: Christ's blood shed for our sins

140. Q: Who may rightly partake of the Lord's Supper?

A: Those who repent of their sins, trust in Christ, live a godly life, and profess their faith before the Church

Reading of the Word

Read scripture. (2-3 minutes)

Exodus 12:14–28

¹⁴“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. ¹⁵Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. ¹⁷And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. ¹⁸In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. ²⁰You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.”

²¹Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. ²²Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.

²³For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. ²⁴You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. ²⁵And when you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. ²⁶And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ ²⁷you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

²⁸Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.



Prayer

Ask the Lord to help you and the children see God's eternal plan throughout Scripture. (1 minute)

Lord Jesus, even before You created the earth, You had a plan for our salvation. Help us to see Your plan throughout Scripture and to be reminded of Your sacrifice as we learn about the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (3-5 minutes)

This month our worship focus will be on the sacraments. Can anyone tell me what a sacrament is? (*Wait to see if you get answers.*) The Heidelberg Confession was one of the important writings that we studied when we looked at the Confessions of Faith, and it answers the question, "What are sacraments?" with this answer: "Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals." Another way to say this is that sacraments are visible signs, or "visual aids," that point to God's invisible grace. Sacraments were given to us by God so that, as we practice them, we might more clearly understand the promises of the gospel. Can anyone name the two sacraments we practice at our church? (*Wait for answers.*)

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself commanded we observe both baptism and the Lord's Supper. He gave us these two sacraments so we might better understand the gospel we have believed. He also gave us baptism and the Lord's Supper to distinguish His people (which means to help us look different) from the world and to strengthen and comfort us. God has always given signs for His people—it's a way that He enters into our world with us. He gives us things we can taste, and touch, and see so that we can understand who He is, remember what He has done, and hope for what He has promised to do.

Sometimes God uses a meal to be a sign or to tell a story. Today we are going to look at an event in the Bible that is filled with signs, stories, and a meal. When God was ready to deliver His people out of slavery, He gave them a sign and seal—the Passover meal. God had sent His message to Pharaoh through His messenger, Moses: "Let My people go so they may worship Me!" But Pharaoh didn't listen, and the final cost of disobedience to God, which is always death, came to the Egyptians.

Death was going to come to all of Egypt, but God promised to rescue His people. On the night of their rescue, God asked His people to prepare a meal. The main dish of this meal was to be a lamb, and God's people were to paint their doorframes with its blood, so the Angel of Death would pass over their households. The sign of the rescue was to be the blood of the lamb. There were many other foods they also were to eat that night, and these too were signs that would help them remember the slavery out of which God would rescue them. When God's people sat down to that first Passover meal, they looked forward to how God would rescue them from Pharaoh. And He did rescue them! Every year after that, God's people were to eat this meal again on the same date as a reminder to look back and remember His rescue. Even in those later times, they were also still looking forward for

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

another, even greater, rescue. God’s people were waiting for a King to sit at the head of their table. They were hoping for a final rescue from the slavery to their sin.

When Jesus celebrated His last Passover here on earth, He used the meal to tell a new story: the story of how He would deliver us from our sin. This is what we now call the Lord’s Supper. From that day on, this meal has been a sign and remembrance of our rescue—not from slavery to Egypt, but from slavery to sin. It has been almost 2,000 years since Jesus died on the cross for our sin, but we are still remembering what He has done with the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. God has sent a message to the prince of darkness, Satan, saying: “Let My people go so they may worship Me.” The Bible tells us the blood of the Lamb of God was required to set His people free from sin. Jesus is the Lamb of God—He died to set us free so we might worship Him. ***(Recite the memory verse, John 1:29, with the children: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”)*** His sacrifice does not need to be repeated, like the lamb of the Passover meal. As the true Lamb, He only needed to die once to cover our sin now and forever.

Next week we will look more closely at the Lord’s Supper, and how it is a meal of both remembrance and hope.

Let’s pretend to celebrate the Passover, so we can better understand the remembrance that God’s people were commanded to celebrate every year before Jesus died.

Activity: Do the “Celebrate the Passover Activity” following the directions on the page.



Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit (Phil. 4:23).

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