

date: **10/8/17**

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

Festival of Passover: Remembering and Celebrating God as Deliverer

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

During a children's ministry conference, attending practitioners, leaders, volunteers, and writers from all parts of North America remembered and celebrated what God had been doing in their ministries. It was a time of fellowship and praise—a time to remind us how good God has been—to fill us up for the work ahead.

Many of the stories told during the conference declared God as the Deliverer. One woman spoke about how God used a child's worship response piece to deliver her and her husband from bitter separation and divorce. Another man spoke of how God used a woman's simple act of saying, "I love you" to herself in the mirror to deliver her from years of self-hatred.

These stories proclaim the truth that God, the Deliverer, is active in the lives of His people today. They remind us that God is powerful. He hears our cries, and He uses even the most unlikely people and situations to deliver us from our deepest wounds.

Praise God who has the power to deliver in ways tailor-made for those who need it. And praise God for giving us in the faith community the opportunity to hear these stories so that together we can celebrate Him.

Tori Funkhouser
TruStory Team

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

Passover: A Feast Celebrating God as Deliverer

During Passover, the Israelites celebrated their deliverance from the Egyptians as well as God as their Deliverer. Each portion of the Passover feast symbolizes a part of the narrative of the Israelites' escape from Egypt. The meal includes lamb to symbolize the slain lamb whose blood marked the Hebrews' doorposts on the night of the 10th plague so that God would "pass over" those homes and death would not come to them. In

the New Testament, Jesus became the sacrificial Lamb of Passover to offer deliverance from sin for people from every age.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

Slavery takes many forms. Some live as slaves in foreign nations, while others cry out to be freed from the bondage of a dictator. But we're all enslaved in some way, shackled and bound by things we can't see: fear, doubt, vanity, and pride.

Most of the time our enslavement is spiritual, not physical. But it's just as real. And, just as God saved His people from physical slavery, He can save us from spiritual bondage.

This week, challenge yourself to ask God to reveal any spiritual bondage you're suffering under—and to deliver you from it. Maybe you fear that God doesn't love you as deeply as you've always heard, that you're not His chosen child, that you're not forgiven for what you did during high school, what you said to your friend, or how you often think about unclean things. Ask Him to heal you from the spiritual bondage of sin or darkness that only He can release. Choose to step out of your comfort zone and ask God to come into the places in your life that have become spiritual millstones around your neck. Ask God to free you from them. When you do this, be prepared to be surprised at the ways God will choose to work in your life.

SMALL GROUP SECTION

EXPLORE// 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's biblical feast or festival.

On the Road Again

In the Old Testament, God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt. Help your children ponder what they would pack if they took a trip.

SUPPLIES

- Small suitcase
- Sticky notes (5–10 per child)
- Markers or colored pencils

RELATE

Before the people fled from Egypt, do you remember what God told them to do? Allow responses. **God told them to fix one last meal—a Passover meal—that they would make every year to remember what God had done for them. As the Israelites got ready to leave, they probably packed up their things,**

especially the things most important to them.

Today, as the children arrive, invite them to spend a few moments pondering what important things they would pack if they were going on a very long trip. As they think of things, encourage them to draw pictures of those items on sticky notes. As they work, interact with them by asking them open-ended questions about their choices. For instance, you might say, "Tell me about the items you chose. Why did you choose them?" or "With whom would you want to travel?" When the kids finish, have them place their sticky notes inside the suitcase.

LARGE GROUP

SECTION

REMEMBER// 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

Through a sequence of traditions and play, children are given the opportunity to pause and remember who God is.

Traditions and Remember Verse

SUPPLIES

- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)

RELATE

After everyone gathers as a large group, open with Traditions. During Traditions, you're helping the children work toward a common goal and giving them mementos to celebrate accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse, inviting friends to church, or bringing their Bibles. Once children receive their mementos, have them put the objects in the designated container. Once kids fill the container, hold a celebration.

REMEMBER VERSE

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

Remember and Play

SUPPLIES

- Images: ZONK! Questions, ZONK! Answers (see Resources)

Note: See the How It Works document for more information.

ZONK!

Questions and Answers

1) What broke Adam and Eve's relationship with God?

- a. Sin
- b. An earthquake
- c. God left them
- d. Adam cut down a tree

ANSWER: A. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit, sin entered the world, destroying their relationship with God.

2) What did God do for Adam and Eve before they left the garden?

- a. He bought them a car
- b. He made them food
- c. He made clothes for them
- d. He gave them some money

ANSWER: C. God made clothes for Adam and Eve out of animal skins.

3) How long did Noah, his family, and the animals stay on the boat?

- a. A little over a year
- b. Six months
- c. One or two days
- d. 40 days and 40 nights

ANSWER: A. Although the rain stopped after 40 days and 40 nights, it took about a year for the water to go down enough for everyone to leave the ark.

4) True or False: God sent a beautiful tree as a symbol of His covenant with Noah.

ANSWER: False. God sent a rainbow to remind Noah and his descendants that He would never again destroy all living things with a flood.

5) What was Abraham's name before God changed it?

- a. Abe
- b. Abram
- c. Abimelech
- d. Alexander

ANSWER: B. Abram's name became Abraham, which means "father of many nations."

6) What did God promise Abraham?

- a. God would be the God of Abraham and all his descendants
- b. God would give Abraham so many descendants that counting them would be like trying to count grains of sand
- c. God would give Abraham's descendants a land to live in: the Promised Land
- d. All of the above

ANSWER: D. In God's covenant with Abraham, God promised to give Abraham a big and important family and to lead them to a special home they could call their own.

7) How did God provide for Abraham and Isaac on the mountain?

- a. God brought them a glass of water
- b. God gave them a big meal of fried chicken
- c. God provided a ram to sacrifice
- d. God brought them jackets to wear

ANSWER: C. Just before Abraham sacrificed Isaac, he looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a prickly bush. God had provided.

8) True or False: Sarah laughed when God told her she would be a mom.

ANSWER: True. Sarah thought she was too old to have a baby.

9) What did Abraham and Sarah name their son?

- a. Isaac
- b. Liam
- c. Jacob
- d. Steve

ANSWER: A. Abraham and Sarah named their son Isaac, which means "laughter."

10) What two things did Jacob take from his brother Esau?

- a. Baseball bat and glove
- b. Birthright and blessing
- c. Strawberry and peach
- d. Math book and science book

ANSWER: B. Esau stole his older brother Jacob's birthright and blessing.

SMALL GROUP
SECTION**BLESS//** 5 min.**Small Group Leaders**

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

RELATE

As you bless your kids, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share the joy and love they have received from God.

After God's people had been delivered from Egypt, they sang a song of celebration to God. God has also delivered us from our sin. Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven of our sin and be with God forever and ever. As I read a portion of a song to you, think about ways God has delivered you, and thank Him.

Invite kids to open their hands and raise them above their heads as an expression of giving honor and glory to God. Then read this passage from Exodus 15:1–3:

I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

Children, may you know that our God is mighty and powerful, and He fights for you. May you see God as your Deliverer in your life this week.