

# CONNECTING FAITH AND LIFE

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN | YOUTH | FAMILY | ADULT

**God does what!?!...The Surprising Work of God in the Lives of People  
Week 1 - God Delivers**

## **KEY POINT**

The life of faith isn't without times of struggle, uncertainty, and fear. When we can't see anything but the obstacles in front of us, God meets us where we are and creates a way forward.

## **KEY VERSE**

Exodus 13:3  
Moses said to the people, "Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the Lord brought you out from there by strength of hand.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Begin your time together with this, or another, prayer:

Powerful God, we are in awe of your mighty deeds and sometimes perplexed. We give you thanks for protecting your servants throughout history and we ask you to guide our steps this day. Give us clarity in studying your Word, that we might learn your intention for justice, love, and mercy for each of your beloved creatures. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **READ**

Exodus 12:13, 13:1-8 (Additional text: Luke 22:14-20)

## **ABOUT THE STORY**

We pick up this week where the daily home reading from yesterday left off—amidst the plagues of Egypt. God has hardened Pharaoh's heart to show God's wonders to the Egyptians. Now it is getting real. God creates the first Passover for the Israelites. God gives very specific instructions as to how they are to prepare and eat their food on this night. There is no time to waste carving out specific pieces of meat or waiting for bread to rise. They need to eat quickly, sandals on, ready to run for safety out of the land of Egypt.

Moses and Aaron told the Israelites what God had instructed and they all obeyed. That night God struck down the firstborn of every Egyptian household. The children of the Israelites were spared because of the lamb's blood marking their doorposts. God "passed over" their homes so they remained safe. Once again, God has been faithful to God's promise to Abraham—to protect his descendants that they might outnumber the stars in the sky. To this day many Jews celebrate Passover by eating this meal, including unleavened bread to remind them of the haste required to escape their slavery in Egypt.

The story of the salvation of God's people from Egypt is one of the central stories in the entire Bible. It is a story that God uses to describe God's self (I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt). Many Jews still celebrate Passover, when God spared the lives of their ancestors through the blood of a lamb. This imagery is important to Christians as well. Jesus takes the unleavened bread and wine, shares it with his disciples in the last supper before his death, comparing it to his body and blood. We hear throughout Scripture that Jesus is the Lamb of God and that the blood of that lamb saves us. In both faith traditions, God has proven faithful to the promises God made to humankind.

## SHARE

- What is a family story that gets told and retold year after year?
- When you catch yourself doing something you probably shouldn't do, after asking for forgiveness, how will you celebrate that God forgives our sins?
- Share, write, or draw about an experience when you were set free from something. Perhaps this was a fear, an illness, a difficult situation, or something else you were relieved to be delivered from.

## PRAY

Pray this or another prayer aloud together:

God of life, deliver me from sin. God, deliver me from evil. Thank you for your faithful watch over us. Help us when we are in danger and to protect others who are in greater need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## BLESS

Share this verbal blessing with one another: "God saved you through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

## FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION AT HOME:

- At least at one meal each day, be mindful of the gift it is to eat without fear. Take the time to thank God for daily bread, shelter and the community of people who protect you. Then ask that God might use you to be shelter for someone else.
- Learn more about the Jewish celebration of Passover. If you know someone who is Jewish, take time to ask about their experience with this holy celebration. It is always good to understand the experiences of others to better respect them as individuals and maybe even clarify our own beliefs and practices.
- Pray for unity among the people of the world. Though of different religions, races, creeds, identities and traditions, may we begin to see each person uniquely created in God's image.