

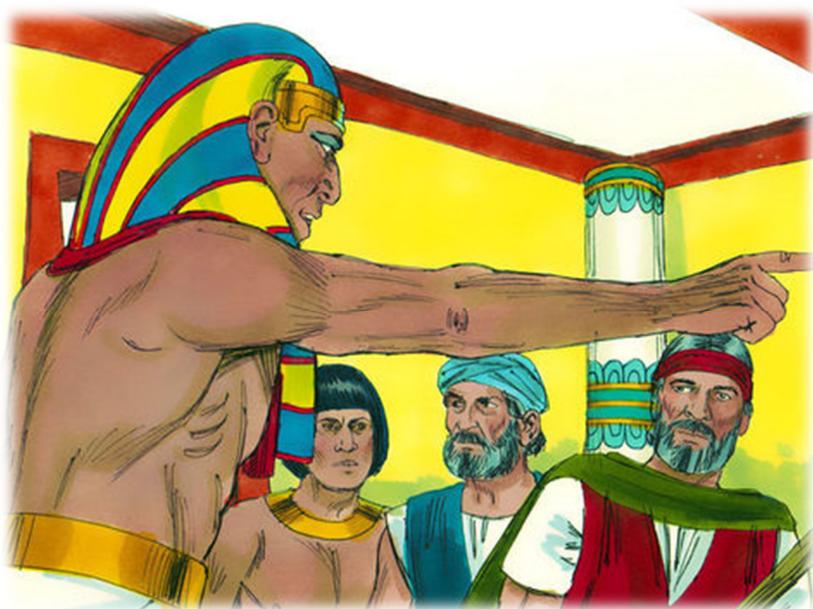
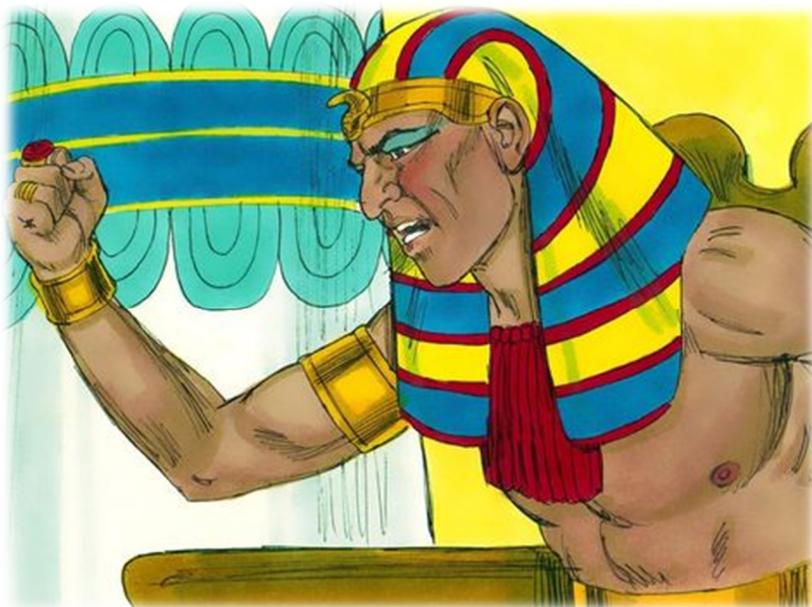
CHC Grade 1-4
Spring Feasts



Plagues on Egypt

Exodus 7-9

God had heard the cries of His people. Pharaoh and the Egyptian taskmasters had treated them cruelly for too long. It was time to bring them out of Egypt. It was time to bring them into the Promised Land where they could serve God without the oppression of the Egyptians. God sent Moses, His servant, to command Pharaoh to let God's people go. Unfortunately for Pharaoh, he would not listen. "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go!" said Pharaoh.

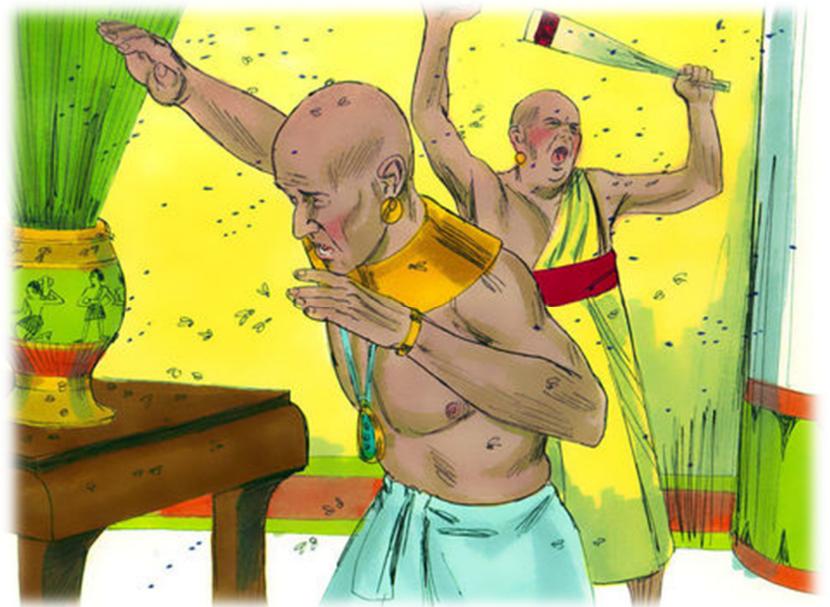


It was true—Pharaoh did not know the God of Moses. There were many gods in Egypt. A god of the sun, a god of the River Nile, a god of earth and a god of sky. There was a god of protection, a god of medicine, a god of storms, and most importantly... even Pharaoh himself was considered a god! It was time for God to show Pharaoh, and the Egyptians, and His very own people that He alone is the Only True God—and the gods of the Egyptians were not gods at all.



And so the plagues on Egypt began. First God turned all the water in Egypt into blood. The fish in the River Nile died. No one wanted to drink that water! The One True God was more powerful than Egypt's gods of the Nile. Next came the plague of frogs. Frogs, frogs, frogs! Frogs in their beds, frogs in their ovens, frogs in their bread bowls. They were everywhere. Could the Egyptian frog-god do anything about this plague? Of course not! "Please! Make the frogs go away!" Pharaoh begged. "I will let the people go." But when the frogs were gone, Pharaoh changed his mind.

Next God made the dust of the land turn into lice –tiny, itching bugs to plague both man and beast. God was more powerful than the Egyptian earth-god. Then came the plague of the flies. God was more powerful than Egypt's fly-god. "Please, pray to your God for me!" Pharaoh cried. "I will let the people go." But when the flies were gone, Pharaoh hardened his heart again.



A pestilence on all the livestock was the next plague. The cattle, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the oxen, the sheep—all of the Egyptian livestock died. Where was the cow-god of Egypt now? “Take ashes,” God told Moses. “Scatter them towards the heavens. Boils and sores will break out on man and animal.” Pharaoh’s magicians could not even stand before Moses because of the pain of the boils. But still Pharaoh did not listen. God sent hail and fire and thunder that killed any who remained outside and destroyed the plants. God sent locusts that ate all of the crop of Egypt—anything that was left from the destruction of the hail was now gone.



Then came the plague of darkness. For three days, the Egyptians sat in pitch black darkness. Where were the gods of light? One by one all of the gods of Egypt were shown to be powerless. But there was one god of Egypt left—Pharaoh himself. It was time for one last plague—a plague that would finally show Pharaoh that he was no match for the Creator of heaven and earth.

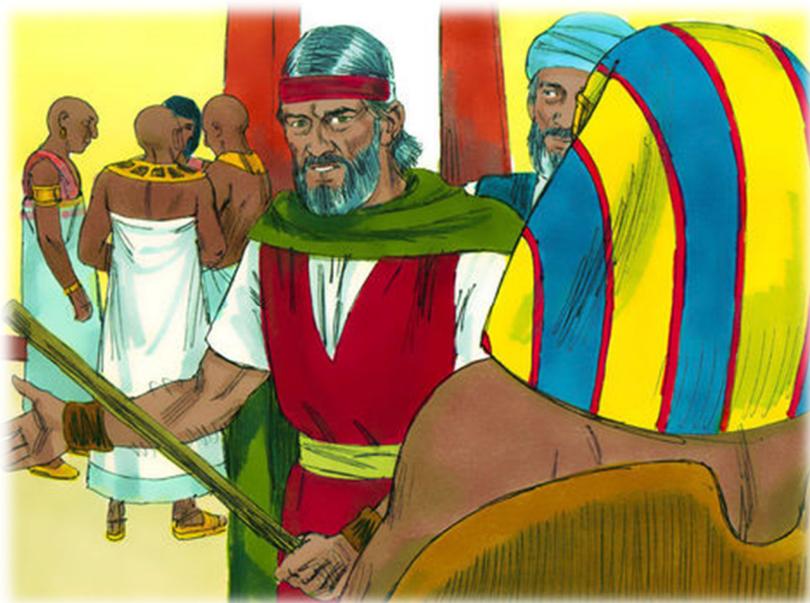
Pharaoh did not know the One True God. But God used the plagues to show Pharaoh, AND the Egyptians, AND the Israelites, AND us that God ALONE is the One True God, and all other gods of the world are powerless and nothing. God used the plagues in Egypt to show His power so that His name would be declared in all the earth.

Fill in the **plague** that corresponds to each **false Egyptian god** (the verses beneath the blank can help you.)

	God's Power Shown	Against the false gods of Egypt
1	_____	god Hapi—spirit of the Nile god Osiris—Nile was his bloodstream
2	_____ Exodus 8:1-15	god Hapi-frog goddess of Egypt
3	The dust of the earth became _____ Exodus 8:16-19	god seb—the earth god of Egypt
4	_____ Exodus 8:16-32	god Uatchit—the fly god of Egypt
5	_____	god Isis—often depicted as a cow
6	_____ Exodus 9:8-12	god Serapis—a god of healing
7	_____	god Nut—Egyptian sky goddess
8	_____	god Serapia—protector against locusts
9	_____	god Re, god Aten, god Horus—gods of the sun

The Tenth Plague

Exodus 12-13



Moses stood angrily in the palace before Pharaoh. Nine plagues! And still Pharaoh had refused to obey God! “Thus says the LORD: ‘about midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and *all the firstborn in the land of Egypt will die!* There will be a great cry in all the land of Egypt such as was never before, nor will be like it again.’” Furiously, Moses left. Pharaoh still did not believe.

Back in Goshen, where the children of Israel lived, Moses called the elders of the families together. He had special instructions from God for this night, if they wanted to be spared from death. God’s people must believe and obey Him – they too must know that God was the Only True God.



“Go,” Moses told the elders, “You must pick out a lamb for each of your families, and kill it. Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the lamb’s blood, and paint the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood. None of you shall go out of the door of the house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through the land to strike the Egyptians. When He sees the blood on the lintel and the doorposts, He will pass over your house and protect you from death.” The elders bowed their heads and worshipped. They had faith that what God said, He would do. So they did all that God had commanded.



The children of Israel waited safely within their houses. Their shoes were on. They had staves in their hands. They were ready.

Suddenly a mournful shriek pierced the dark midnight air – then another. And another. Every Egyptian house had been touched by death.

Pharaoh’s own firstborn – the future Pharaoh of Egypt - was dead. Pharaoh was not a powerful god after all. He was completely helpless against the Creator of heaven and earth. He needed to obey the true God who could give life... and take it away.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron – “Go! Be gone, take everything and *leave at once!*”

In Goshen, a surge of excitement spread throughout God’s people. The time they had cried for and waited for had finally come! They were free! God had delivered His people! Hastily the children of Israel gathered their things. The bread dough had no time to rise. The Egyptians, eager to send the children of Israel out gave them jewels of silver and gold, and clothing. “Go! Now!” They cried.

The people hurried out of Egypt – the young and the old, the flocks, the herds, the cattle. They found a temporary resting place in Succoth, where they ate the bread that did not have time to rise – unleavened bread.



The Israelites’ journey had just begun. The promised land still lay ahead with a wilderness in between. But that night marked the *beginning*. The beginning of God’s deliverance. The beginning of freedom. It was the birth of the nation of Israel, the nation that God would call “my firstborn son.”

It was a night to be remembered – forever.

God had given the children of Israel instructions that they must follow to be delivered from Egypt—the land of sin and death. They must put blood on the doorpost, and stay in the house and be ready. Like the children of Israel, we are waiting for the midnight cry that announces our deliverance—when Christ returns! Like the children of Israel had shoes on their feet and staff in their hands, we must also be ready to go at ANY TIME!

QUESTIONS

Every year after the Passover in Egypt, the Children of Israel were to re-enact this memorable night. God wanted them never to forget that Night of Deliverance.

Let's make a list of facts about the instructions that God gave the children of Israel for keeping the first Passover.



WHEN

1) This month was supposed to be the _____ of months: it was to be the _____ of the year. Ex. 12:2

Since this Night of Deliverance marked a new beginning for all of the children of Israel, God declared that month to be the **first month** of a brand New Calendar. Passover from then on would be in the first month of New Year.

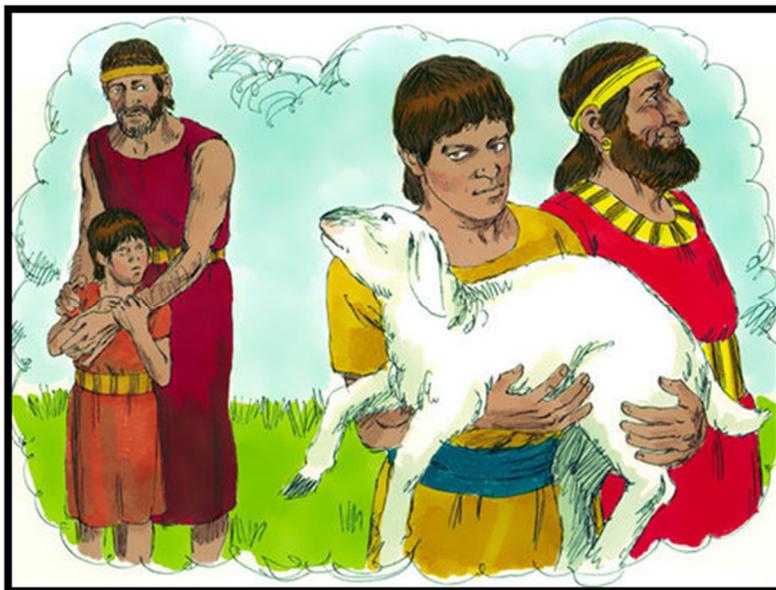
2) What was the name of this first month (Ex. 13:4)? _____

3) Looking at the calendar on the previous page, what season of the year does Passover fall in (winter, spring, summer, or fall)? _____

4) **What day** of this first month were the children of Israel meant to set apart a lamb (Ex. 12:3)?

5) Until what day of the first month were they supposed to

Keep the lamb (Ex.12:6)? _____



6) They were to kill the lamb at **what time of the day** (Ex. 12:6)?

DETAILS ABOUT THE LAMB

1) **The lamb** must be without what (Ex. 12:5)? _____

2) Was the lamb to be male or female (Ex. 12:5)? _____

3) What special instruction was given about the lamb's bones (Ex. 12:46)?

4) What were they to do with the blood of the lamb (Ex. 12:7)?

5) How were they to cook the lamb (Ex. 12:8)?

6) What two things were they to eat with the lamb (Ex. 12:8)?



DETAILS – EATING THE PASSOVER

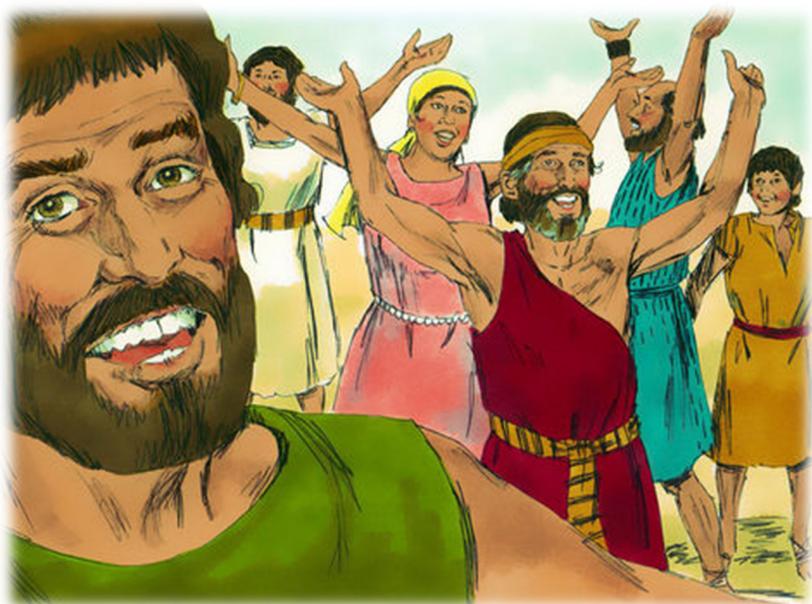
The people were to be ready to leave Egypt when they ate the Passover.

They were required to have their loins _____, their _____ on their feet, and their _____ in their hand (Ex. 12:11).

They were to eat in _____ (Ex. 12:11).

The Secret of the Passover

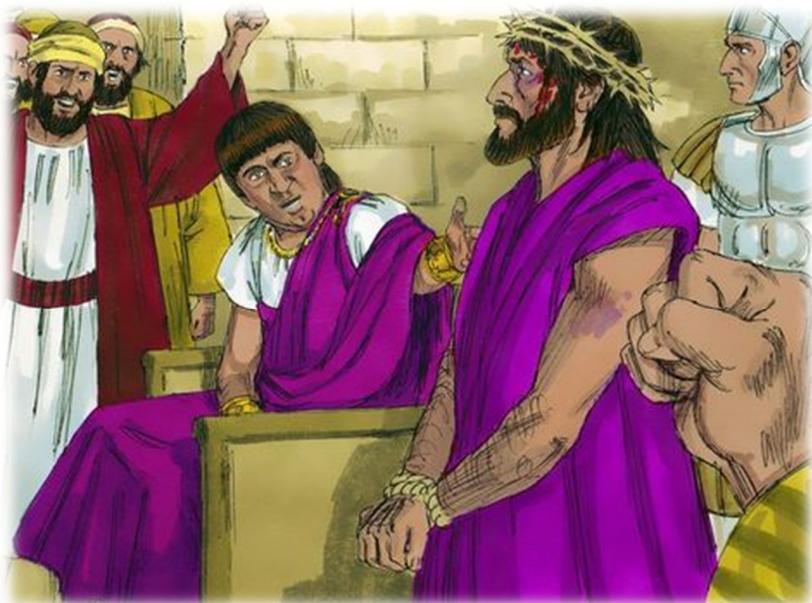
After the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt, God wanted them to remember the Passover every year. He wanted them to remember the night that they were delivered from Egypt—the land of sin and death. So every year, the children of Israel were to choose a lamb and keep it in their home for four days. It had to be a lamb without any spots or blemishes. After four days they were to kill the lamb, and roast it with fire. Just like on the first Passover night, they were to eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.



God wanted His people to remember God's Great Power, and God's Great Deliverance from Egypt. They should never forget it! They must always be thankful for it. They should tell the story of their deliverance to their children and their children's children.



But the Passover also gave clues to a secret! Do you want to know the secret? The secret is that one day, many, many years after the First Passover, God would send a man—a man who was called “a Lamb” who would deliver all of God’s people. This person, the Lamb of God, would not deliver God’s people from Egypt—he would deliver God’s people from Sin and from Death.



Do you know who this man—the Lamb of God—is? Yes, that’s right—it is Jesus! God’s very own Son was the Passover Lamb. Just like the children of Israel had to pick a lamb without any spot or blemish, God’s own Son did not have any spot or blemish—which means he never, ever sinned. Even before he was crucified, Pilate said about Jesus: “I find no fault in him!” No one could find fault with Jesus, because he did not have any!

Jesus was killed on Passover day, at the very same time that the Israelites were killing the lambs in their houses to keep the Passover.

God told the Israelites not to break any of the Passover Lamb's bones. When Jesus died, the soldiers came to break the bones of all of the crucified men—Jesus and the two thieves. They broke the bones of the two thieves, but they did not break Jesus' bones!



Just like the Passover night was the time of deliverance from the slavery in Egypt, the day that Christ died marked a much Greater Deliverance for all of God's people. Jesus' death marked the time that God provided a way for all of His people to be free from the slavery of Sin and from Death. All who choose to be a part of God's Deliverance, and obey God's commands will one day be free from Sin and Death in the Kingdom!

Passover Lamb



Christ

For God's people to be saved from the angel of death and delivered from Egypt, they were commanded

to set aside a _____
(Exodus 12:3).

When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said "Behold the _____ of God, which taketh away the _____ of the world." John 1:29

The Passover Lamb had to be without _____. (Exodus 12:5).

Christ was able to redeem his people because he was a _____ without _____ and without _____. Peter 1:18-19.

None of the lamb's _____ were to be broken (Ex. 12:46).

Read John 19:32, 33, 36. The soldiers came to break the legs of the crucified thieves and Jesus. But when they saw that Jesus was _____ already, they _____ not his legs... that the Scripture should be fulfilled, 'A _____ of him shall not be _____.'

The Secret of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Every year on the Day of Passover the children of Israel would remember God's deliverance from Egypt by eating an unblemished lamb. But after the day of Passover was over, a second feast began. This second feast was called "The Feast of Unleavened Bread."



Unleavened bread is a flat bread. Leaven, or yeast, is usually an important ingredient in bread. Leaven is very small, but when you add it to warm water it begins to bubble and grow. When it is added to bread it makes the bread rise. A loaf of bread with leaven is nice and round and fluffy. Without leaven, the bread is just like a flat, crunchy cracker.

This Feast of Unleavened Bread lasted all week. Like the Passover the Feast of Unleavened Bread was also meant to help the Children of Israel remember the night that God delivered them out of Egypt—because on the night of their Deliverance they had to leave so quickly that the bread did not have time to rise—so they ate unleavened bread.



Every year, when the children of Israel prepared for the Feast of Unleavened bread they were to get rid of ALL the leaven in their house. They were to search high and low, and sweep and clean to make sure they did not miss any leaven—it must all be thrown out!

Just like the Passover Lamb was a clue or a shadow that pointed to Jesus, the Feast of Unleavened Bread gives us clues about Jesus' coming!



The apostle Paul tells us that leaven is like sin. Leaven starts off very small, but it can grow so much that it makes an entire loaf of bread rise! Sin can also start off very small, but over time can grow and grow. Can you think of the one man who never, ever did any sin? He was just like unleavened bread! He did not allow any sin in His life, not even a little bit!

When Jesus broke the Unleavened Bread, he told his disciples to take it, and eat it because it was his body - broken for them. The unleavened bread wasn't actually his body, but it was a symbol of his body because He did not have any leaven or sin. Breaking the unleavened bread was a symbol that tells how Jesus' body was broken, or crucified. Every Sunday, when your parents have the broken bread and wine they are remembering Jesus and his death and resurrection.

God wants us to follow Jesus' example. Just like Jesus did not sin (he had no leaven), we are to also get rid of the leaven in our life. A little bit of leaven grows bigger and bigger, and a little bit of sin our life will grow and grow, too. God wants us to search and get rid of the sin in our life before it begins to grow!



QUESTIONS

Having no leaven represents something very important. Look up these verses and write down the clues that will help you understand the secret message of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

1) Look at the leaven. Is it big or small? _____

2) Do you need much for making a loaf of bread rise? _____

3) Look up Galatians 5:9. How much leaven does it take to make a whole lump of dough rise? _____

4) Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8. What did Paul tell the Corinthians to do with the old leaven? _____

5) What does Paul tell us the old leaven represents (v8)? _____

6) Who is the ONLY man who was 100% completely unleavened? _____

7) What are baptized believers supposed to eat once a week to remember this man and His example of living with no sin? _____

The Secret of the Feast of Firstfruits

After the Feast of Unleavened Bread began, God wanted the Children of Israel to keep ANOTHER Feast! This Feast was called “The Feast of Firstfruits” and it happened on the first Sunday after the Feast of Unleavened Bread began.



Passover, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Feast of Firstfruits were all kept in the springtime, so all of the plants were just beginning to grow everywhere.

For the Feast of Firstfruits, the Children of Israel were to give to God the very first grain that had grown in their fields. They would gather up the very first of the grain into a bundle, or sheaf, and take it to the priest at the tabernacle.

The priest would take the sheaf of grain and wave it. This was the way the first grain was given to God. It might have looked mysterious to see the priest waving the bundle of grain at the tabernacle, but waving the grain before God was a symbol of something that was ALIVE and ACTIVE. It was like the children of Israel saying, “We are giving the first of the new life that grows in the spring to God, to show that we want to ACTIVELY serve Him and give Him our best.”



Just like the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were clues or shadows that pointed forward to something much bigger, the Feast of Firstfruits is also secret or a shadow that points forward to something else—something VERY important!

New plants pop up in the spring, like new life after a winter of being dead. The new life growing out of the ground is just like a resurrection. Do you remember who was the VERY FIRST person to be resurrected to immortality (immortality means that he will never die again!)? Yes, it was Jesus! Jesus was the first fruits from the dead.



And because God plans everything exactly and perfectly, can you guess what day it was that Jesus was resurrected – the “firstfruits” from the dead? Yes, it was on the Day of the Feast of Firstfruits - the exact same day that the children of Israel were celebrating the new spring life, and giving the first of their fruits as a symbol of life and activity in service to God.

The children of Israel brought their firstfruits to God in the spring. Jesus was the firstfruits who would live forever for God when he was resurrected from the dead. God wants us also to give Him our firstfruits—our first and our best should always belong to God.

QUESTIONS

Read Leviticus 23:10-11.

1) What were the children of Israel to bring to the priest on the Feast of Firstfruits?

2) What did the priest do with the sheaf? _____

The “waving” of the sheaf was presenting it as alive and active to God.

3) What other things were the people to offer when they brought the sheaf (Leviticus 23:12-13)?

_____ for a burnt offering

_____ for a meal offering

_____ for a drink offering

The Feast of Firstfruits gave clues to describe someone very important.

4) The secret of the Feast of Firstfruits is that it points towards a particular person. Who is it (1 Corinthians 15:20)? _____

5) What very important event happened on the Feast of Firstfruits (the day following Passover Sabbath) John 20:1? _____

6) Read Colossians 1:18. Here Jesus is described as the _____.

The Secret of the Feast of Weeks



The first three Feasts that God gave to Israel all happened within a week of each other! The next Feast happened fifty days later. It is sometimes called the Feast of Weeks because the children of Israel counted seven weeks after the Feast of Firstfruits. It is also called the “Pentecost” because “Pente” means fifty, and the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost was kept fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits.

Yet another name for this Feast is the Feast of Harvest. It is sometimes called the Feast of Harvest because the children of Israel were again instructed to bring the first of their harvest to God—but this time it was the firstfruits from their first of summer harvest.



Just like the Feast of Firstfruits, the children of Israel were to collect the first and best of their summer harvest from the fields. It was a different kind of grain this time—wheat instead of barley.

But instead of collecting the grains into a bundle, God wanted the children of Israel to grind the grain and make two loaves of bread—bread with leaven! They were to bring the two loaves of bread to the priest at the tabernacle who would wave them before God.



What clues is God giving us in the Feast of Weeks? What Greater thing is the Feast of Weeks a shadow of?

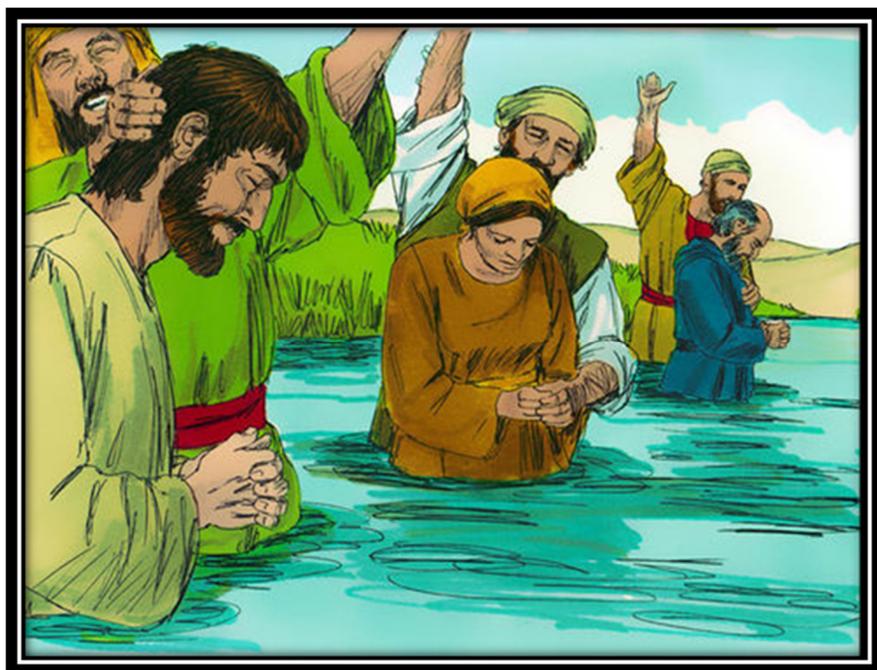
Fifty days after Christ, the Firstfruits, was resurrected something very, very important happened.



On Pentecost (the Feast of Weeks), fifty days after Christ's resurrection, Jesus' disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus had ascended to heaven ten days earlier, and now the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem because that is what Jesus had commanded them to do. Suddenly a noise like a mighty rushing wind filled the house and tongues of fire sat on their heads! Now the disciples, with God's special power, could speak in any language so that they could teach both Jews AND Gentiles God's ways!

This was the secret of the two loaves on Pentecost! The two loaves were a symbol of both Jews and Gentiles learning the gospel message. They could not be sinless (or unleavened) like Jesus, but they could get rid of sin in their life as best as they could. Jesus was the firstfruits from the dead, and now both Jew and Gentile could learn to obey God so that one day they too would be resurrected from the dead and live with Christ forever.

The two loaves that were waved before God on the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost symbolizes all believers—Jew and Gentile. This means that YOU, too, can be part of the Feast of Weeks offering to God by learning the gospel message and living your life for God!



QUESTIONS

1) The Feast of Weeks has several other names.

Numbers 28:26 _____

Exodus 23:16 _____

Acts 2:1 _____

2) Look at the following verses and list some of the fruits or harvest that we can produce and present to God like the children of Israel who offered their firstfruits.

Luke 3:8 _____

Hebrews 13:15 _____

Romans 6:22 _____

Galatians 5:22-25 _____
