

The Spring Feasts of the LORD



Grades 5-8

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Lesson One - Background

IMAGINE you are giving your dad a hug and a kiss as he walks out the door to go to work, but you have to hug him very carefully to avoid touching the painful scab lines that cover his back. Your dad isn't going to an office where he works all day at a place he chose and then comes home with money to pay for a house and food and clothes. *Your dad is a slave.* Every day he is forced to labor HARD. If he's not fast enough, the taskmasters whip him and beat him, leaving bleeding stripes that crust overnight. He is given no money for his work –there is no thanks or reward – except death. Every morning when you say goodbye to your dad you wonder if it will be the last time you see him...

IMAGINE the little baby boys you know. One day while you are outside you notice a line of soldiers walking by roughly carrying... screaming babies. You look closer, and you realize that you know several of the baby boys. At first, the wail of the babies is the only noise in the otherwise eerie silence. But as the



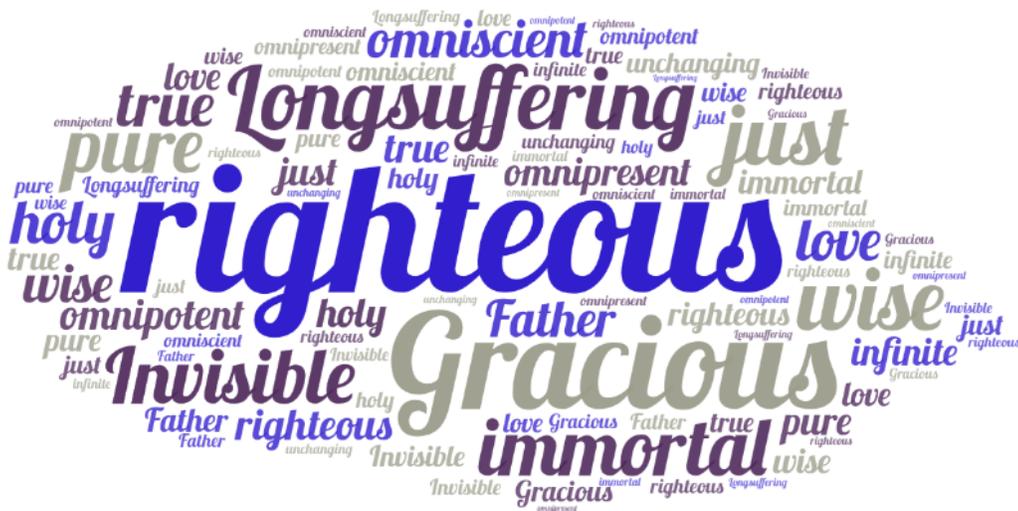
babies' wails fade into the distance, you begin hear the babies' families' helpless, muffled sobs. You have a sick feeling in your stomach as your friend nudges you: "Did you hear that the king ordered his soldiers to drown all the baby boys?"

IMAGINE tomorrow is your birthday. But there is no party, no one is happy for you, no one is excited. Every year as you get older, you only feel an anxious sense of dread. And now the worst birthday has come, because tomorrow you will be old enough to join your dad in slave labor. You wonder if you will be able to work fast enough. You wonder what the cracking whip will feel like on your back. Soon enough, you know you will find out...

IMAGINE as you go to bed that night, a sense of terrible helplessness clouds over you. There is nowhere to run, nowhere to hide. There is no one to protect your dad, or the baby boys, and no one to protect you. Or is there? You realize the *only One* who can save you and your family and your friends from this terrible place is God. The terrible feeling of helplessness turns into words as you pour out your prayer to God.

To You I will cry, O LORD my Rock...

- 1) A good place to start a prayer is to think about what God is like. This word cloud lists many of the ways the Bible describes God. Pick out three characteristics that you would like to include in your prayer. Write them in section 1) of the prayer on the following page.



- 2) Next, in your prayer you would try to describe the terrible situation that is on your mind. Write down how you would describe the situation in section 2).
- 3) After pleading to God for help, it is always important to remember that God is in control and that He knows what is best for us, and will answer if and when the time is right. When Jesus prayed before his crucifixion, he said, “Not my will, but Yours be done.” We must always remember this when we pray to the Almighty. His will is right, whether He answers our plea right away, or later, or never. Write this in your own words in section 3) of your prayer. When you are finished with section 3), read the prayer in a quiet place.

A Prayer for Deliverance

1) *O Lord God of heaven and earth – You are...* _____

2) _____

*Please save your people! Return, O LORD, deliver me! Oh save me for Your mercies sake!**

3) _____



Amen.

**(Psalm 28:9, Psalm 6:4).*

Wow!! Maybe you are thinking, "How terrible this is! Something so awful would never happen in real life!"OR maybe you are remembering the story of Israel in Egypt, and how what you have been imagining is similar to what the children of Israel would have **actually experienced** when they were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt.



But God heard each of the sighs, and sorrows, and cries of the afflicted children of Israel, and when the time was right He sent a man named _____.

Moses had been raised in the palace of Pharaoh, but forty years earlier he'd escaped Egypt and run to Midian. In Midian, he became a shepherd until the day that he came across a bush that was on fire, but did not burn up. It was an

incredible miracle, but the burning bush was only the beginning of many miracles. From the burning bush, God spoke to Moses and commanded him to return to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Children of Israel go so they could worship God in the promised land.

There was a problem. Pharaoh did not know Moses' God. Egypt had many gods. They had a god of the sun, a god of water, a god of earth and a god of sky. They had a god of protection, and a god of medicine, a god of storms, and most importantly... even Pharaoh himself was considered a god! Moses knew Pharaoh did not believe in the true God – so why would Pharaoh want to free Israel so that they could worship Him?

Sadly, it wasn't just Pharaoh and the Egyptians that didn't know the true God. Many of the children of Israel who should have known the God of their fathers – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – had also begun to worship the idols of Egypt.

But God would prove to Pharaoh, and Egypt - *and His very own people* – that He, **and HE ALONE, was the only true and powerful God.**

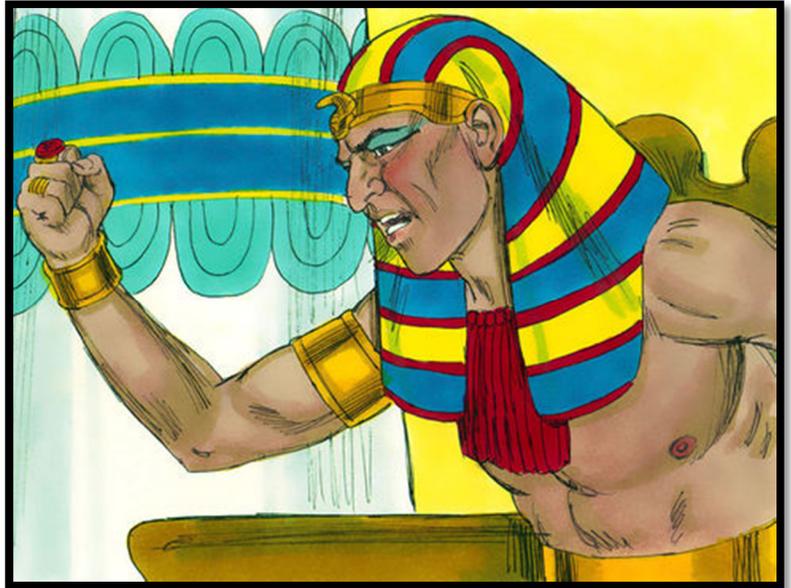
Fill in the plague that corresponds to each false Egyptian god (the verses beneath the blank can help you.)

	God's Power Shown	Against the false gods of Egypt
1	_____ Exodus 7:14-25	god Khnum-guardian of the river's source 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	_____ Exodus 9:1-7	god Isis-often depicted as a cow
6	_____ Exodus 9:8-12	god Serapis-a god of healing god Imhotop-a god of healing
7	_____ Exodus 9:13-35	god Nut-Egyptian sky goddess
8	_____ Exodus 10:1-20	god Serapia-protector against locusts
9	_____ Exodus 10:21-29	god Re, god Aten, god Horus-gods of the sun

Lesson Two - The Tenth Plague

One false god after another was proved powerless in the face of the power of the One True God. Finally, only one Egyptian god was left- Pharaoh himself. Although one by one the plagues inflicted damage on Egypt's crops, animals, and people, Pharaoh still would not cave. He would not submit to Israel's God, and he would not let God's people go.

It was time for one final plague. Obstinate Pharaoh needed to learn that he was NO MATCH for the One who created all living, breathing things.



Moses stood angrily in the palace before Pharaoh: "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.' " Furious, 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 recognize God as 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 held 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 submit to 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. 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.

The Feast of Passover Facts

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

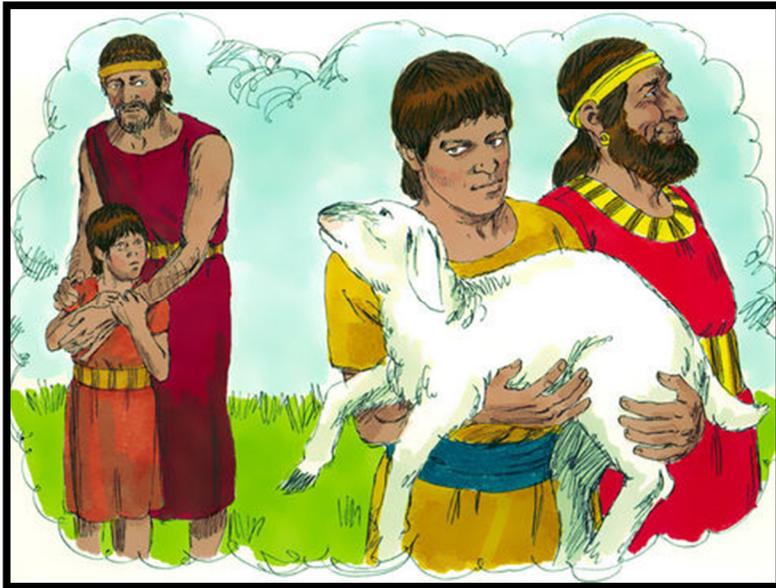
*beginning for all of the children of Israel, God declared that month to be the **first month** of a brand New Calendar. Passover from then on would be in the first month of the New Year.*



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

3) Look up the name of the first month from Ex. 13:4 in your concordance, and write down its meaning: _____

4) Based on the meaning of the name of this month that begins their New Year (and looking at the calendar on the previous page), in what season of the year does Passover fall (winter, spring, summer, or fall)? _____



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

6) Until what day of the first month were they supposed to keep the lamb (Ex.12:6)? _____

5) 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

1) 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).

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

Lesson Three - Christ our Passover

The time of Adam's disobedience marked the beginning of the reign of SIN. Each child since then – including **YOU** – was born a SLAVE OF SIN, so that from the earliest age sin and wickedness come naturally. Because **YOU** are SIN'S SLAVE, obeying sin – or doing the wrong thing – is easy, but doing the right thing is hard.

Like Pharaoh, SIN is a cruel and wicked ruler. Pain, suffering, and tears have filled the lives of all of SIN'S slaves. There is no payment or reward – except death.

And the “payment” from SIN is inescapable. One by one, since the time of Adam, the dark shadow of death has fallen on all who have ever lived.

There is nowhere for **YOU** to run, nowhere to hide, nowhere to escape out of the hands of the evil ruler SIN and its final reward of death...



Or is there??

YOU realize the *only One* who can save **YOU** and your family and your friends from this terrible ruler and its reward.... is God.

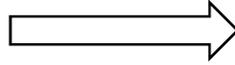
God has provided a way to be free from SIN – to serve Him instead and glorify Him. The “wages” (or payment) of serving sin is death, but God's GIFT for serving Him is ETERNAL LIFE.

The story of the PASSOVER and the deliverance from the evil tyrant PHAROAH is full of God-given clues about how He would provide deliverance to **YOU from the evil tyrant SIN.**

God delivering Israel from Pharaoh is like a secret message that foreshadows God's **GREAT PLAN OF DELIVERANCE** from **SIN**

Use the verses to find the clues:

Pharaoh



Sin

Like Pharaoh was an evil ruler who reigned over God's people...

...sin is also an evil ruler who

_____ unto death (Romans 5:21).

Like the children of Israel were slaves or servants to Pharaoh...

...all of Adam's descendants are

born _____ of sin (Romans 6:17).

The only payment or wage that Pharaoh and Egypt offered for all of their hard work was death.

"For the _____ of

_____ is

_____." (Romans 6:23a)

Just like God heard the cry of the children of Israel and promised to deliver them from the bondage of Egypt...

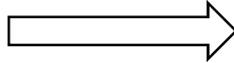
...God also had a plan to "_____

them who through fear of _____

were all their lifetime subject to

_____." (Hebrews 2:15)

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).

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

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

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

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

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 _____.'

It was the month of Abib. The deathly chill of winter began to give way to milder days, and the early signs of spring. Tender green buds seemed to appear out of nowhere. The pastures sprang to life with new little lambs. A steady hum rose in the city of Jerusalem as crowds began to trickle in from the cities all around to observe the annual Feast of Passover.



The families living in and around Jerusalem began their yearly lamb selection process. Off to the pasture they would go to inspect each new lamb, searching for the Perfect One – a lamb without spot or blemish. They would bring it into their home, and over the next four days they would tenderly care for that one special lamb until Passover Day.

Little did the people of Jerusalem know that this Passover would be like no other...

Because at the very same time that the families brought their perfect Passover lamb into their home, The Perfect Lamb entered the city of Jerusalem. His name was “Salvation of God” or Jesus. This Passover Lamb would truly bring God’s Salvation and Deliverance – not from Egypt this time, but from the terrible bondage of Sin and Death.

The time had come. It was the evening before the Passover Lamb would be slain. Jesus sat with his disciples in an upper room. “I have greatly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer,” he said.

He took the unleavened Passover bread, the symbol of the affliction of Israel in Egypt, and broke it. “This is my body which is given for you.” Yes, broken and afflicted, his body would be given for them... that very Passover.

Within hours, the Perfect Lamb was in the hands of cruel Jews and Gentiles - all searching for spot and blemish and finding none. "I find no fault in him," Pilate said. "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" the mob cried.

And so it happened on the very day, *at the very hour* that the Passover lambs were killed as a memorial of Israel's deliverance from Egypt - the Perfect Passover Lamb was crucified.

While the Perfect Passover Lamb's blood flowed from his hands and feet to the wood on which he was crucified, the people of Jerusalem keeping the Passover recalled the time the angel of Death passed over the houses whose doors were painted with the blood of their lamb.



An anguished voice cried out - "It is finished!"

The Perfect Passover Lamb was dead.

The reign of Sin was over. Although Jesus was born under Sin's Rulership, he NEVER yielded in obedience to the Flesh, he never SERVED Sin. He was The Lamb who lived without spot and without blemish. And now through the death of his flesh-and-blood body hanging on the cross, the power of Sin had been destroyed.

Lesson Five - The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Passover began a series of God-given feasts. Like the Passover, the other feasts were also a shadow with clues about what God would one day do through Christ. The Passover was kept on the fourteenth of Abib. The day following began a week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread. The day after the first Sabbath during the week of Unleavened Bread was a third feast – the Feast of Firstfruits.

On the calendar below mark:

- ✓ the day that the Passover was kept
- ✓ The day the Feast of Unleavened Bread began
- ✓ The day the Feast of Firstfruits was kept (the Sunday after the Feast of Unleavened Bread began).
- ✓ The day the Feast of Unleavened Bread ended

ABIB

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Passover Lamb Chosen	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

The Feast of Unleavened Bread Facts

Read Exodus 12:14-20.

1) What must be done on the first day of the feast (verse 15)? _____

2) What would happen to the person who ate leaven (verses 15, 19)?

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 to make 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) What does Paul tell us that the secret message of the *unleavened* bread is (v8)?

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

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

9) Pick up some grains of leaven. They are *so* small, and yet can make bread grow so much. List some *leaven* that you want to get rid of in your life? They might be things that look small now, but you want to stop them from growing into a big problem in your life.

It was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Joseph of Arimathea had taken the body of Jesus, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in his very own tomb.

Meanwhile, on that early spring day throughout the land, families were keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As they cracked the flat bread into pieces to eat together, they would have remembered the night of Deliverance when God's people left Egypt so quickly that the bread did not have time to rise. They would have talked about the bread as a symbol of their affliction in Egypt that God had delivered them from.



But they would not have realized that a far Greater Deliverance was happening *at that very time*.

In the days leading up to the feast, they would have carefully examined all parts of the house to remove any leaven. No leaven should be found at all in their houses.

While the people of the land removed leaven from their houses, Christ had been in the temple – God's house – throwing out all of those who bought and sold in the temple. That leaven did not belong in God's house!

"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees!" "Beware of the leaven of the Sadducees!" "Beware of the leaven of Herod!" Jesus had warned. His followers should actively examine themselves for leaven. The leaven of hypocrisy and pride should be thrown out.

He called himself the "bread of life" and no leaven would ever be found in him.

“Take, eat, this is my body,” he had told his disciples as he broke the Unleavened Bread before he died, “broken for you.” And now his body WAS broken for them, lying motionless in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

While Jesus’ followers felt distraught and bewildered over the first few nights of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, they would soon wake up to another Feast and with it some unbelievably exciting news...



Lesson Six – The Feast of Firstfruits

“He is Risen!” the angel’s words echoed from the stony tomb.

It was the first day of the week, very early in the morning, at the rising of the sun...

On the Day of the Feast of the Firstfruits.

The Feast of Firstfruits Facts

Read Exodus 13:1-4.

This section in Exodus gives more detail about the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread, but it also lays the foundation for a Feast that God would introduce later - the Feast of Firstfruits.

1) In verse 2, God wants the children of Israel to _____ (or set apart as holy and belonging to God) all of the _____. Remember that all of Egypt's firstborn had just died, and God describes the Exodus of Israel out of Egypt as the birth of God's firstborn!

2) In verse 3, Moses is sharing details about remembering the Feast of Unleavened bread. Why does he say that no leavened bread should be eaten? Because "By _____ of _____ the LORD brought you out from this place."

3) In verse 4, Moses reminds the people what month God delivered them from Egypt. What month was it? _____

4) What does Abib mean (see lesson 2)? _____

Barley was the first crop to grow, and in Abib the first of the green ears of barley grain had appeared.

The Passover Deliverance was the beginning of something NEW. Abib was the FIRST month of the NEW year. It was springtime, when fresh NEW life sprouts up again – as tender, green ears of grain. It was the time of NEW

births in the flocks and the herds. It was the time of the birth of the nation of Israel from Egypt – God’s Firstborn – a NEW creation.

The NEW nation belonged to God, the FIRSTBORN animals belonged to God, and the FIRST of the sprouting green ears of grain belonged to God. God wanted His people to remember that the First must always belong to God. So He established the Feast of Firstfruits on the First day of the week after Passover in the First month of the New Year.



Read Leviticus 23:10-11.

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

6) What did the priest do with the sheaf?

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

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

a) _____ for a burnt offering

b) _____ for a meal offering

c) _____ for a drink offering

The Feast of Firstfruits gave clues to describe another NEW creation, another FIRSTBORN, and the beginning of a NEW and ETERNAL life.

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

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

10) Read Colossians 1:18. Here Jesus is described as the _____ from the dead!

The death of the Passover Lamb began the deliverance from Egypt. Christ's death began the deliverance from Sin and Death. The exodus of Egypt was the birth of God's Firstborn nation. The resurrection of Christ was the birth of God's Firstborn Son. He was the FIRST fresh, green ear of grain that was presented alive and active to God!

But there would be more harvest for God still to come...

11) In John 12:23-24, Jesus prepared his disciples for His impending death. He said: "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified."

"Unless a _____ of _____ fall into the ground and

_____, it abideth _____.” Christ described himself as a seed of grain, and his death as the planting of that seed. Although the seed starts off alone, something happens after it is planted. In your own words, explain how this parable describes Christ’s death and resurrection.



Who has believed our report? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground... Isaiah 53:1a,2a



The sun was beginning to peer over the horizon, lighting the stony path for the men trekking to the temple. Each was carrying a sheaf of tender, green grain.

Like each year before, they would give it to the priest to present the first of their harvest before God. But this year something was different.

A few days ago, as the Passover meal was being prepared, an unusual darkness had fallen over the land in the middle of the day. But that wasn't the only strange event that day – the veil in the temple between the Holy and the Most Holy had torn. The fact that it ripped from top to bottom was completely perplexing. No human could have done THAT.

Would they get a glimpse of the torn veil and inside the Most Holy when the priest presented their firstfruit offering to God this time? No, they must not be so bold. Under the law, no one was to enter the Most Holy except the High Priest, and even then only once a year. The penalty for disobedience would certainly be death!

Meanwhile, the rising sun also lit the path for three women. Although they did not carry sheaves of green firstfruits, they clutched sweet spices in their hands. They were not walking to the temple, but to a tomb that was outside of Jerusalem's gate.

Their Lord was dead. All their hopes that He would have been the Deliverer had been dashed when he hung on the cross. He had been faultless, and yet he had been condemned to die. The Passover that should have been a time of rejoicing over God's Deliverance from Egypt was clouded in despair.

The dismal tomb, enclosed by a large stone, lay in a garden teeming with life. The early morning birds were singing, the fresh buds in the garden opening. New life surrounded, but none of that mattered. What mattered was the One whom they loved was dead, and they were going to the tomb to anoint his lifeless body.

**They drew closer, suddenly puzzled –
the stone from the door of the tomb was gone...**

As Great as God's Passover Deliverance from Egypt was, it was a mere shadow that told of God's Far Greater Deliverance from the bondage of Sin and Death.

Through the evil ruler Pharaoh, God told of the slavery of the cruel tyrant – Sin.

Through the unspotted, unblemished Passover Lamb, God told of His Son who would never sin – and yet would die to save others and destroy the power of Sin and Death.

The new, green ears of grain that began as a seed, buried in the ground, but now alive and presented to God, told of Life from the dead. The firstfruits were a shadow of God's Firstborn Son presented to his Father, with a New Life, a Resurrected Life, an Eternal Life.

He was a New Creation, who provided a New and Living Way for all those who would follow him.

He was the firstfruit.

But the harvest was only beginning...



Lesson Seven - The Feast of Weeks

“The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” – Luke 10:2

The Feast of Weeks Facts

Three times in the year the men of Israel were to make the pilgrimage to the tabernacle or temple for three different observances or feasts.

1) What were the three annual Pilgrimages (Deuteronomy 16:16)?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

Although the Feast of Weeks is the second pilgrimage, it is very closely connected to the Feast of Firstfruits, and ultimately the Passover. Let's collect some facts about the Feast of Weeks.

2) How many days were they supposed to count from the Feast of Firstfruits to identify the date of the Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:15-16)? _____

The date of the Feast of Weeks is based on the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Firstfruits' date is based on the Passover. Without the Passover and Deliverance from Egypt there would have been no Firstfruits or harvest!

3) The Feast of Weeks has several other names.

a) Numbers 28:26 _____

b) Exodus 23:16a _____

c) Acts 2:1 _____

Interestingly, this Feast of Weeks is also called a Feast of Firstfruits. The children of Israel were again coming to offer the first and best of their harvest, but this time it was the first of the wheat instead of the green ears of barley.

4) For the first Feast of Firstfruits, a sheaf had been waved before God. For the Feast of Weeks what was waved before God (Leviticus 23:17)?



5) What were these firstfruits allowed to be baked with this time (Leviticus 23:17)? _____

6) Re-read John 12:23-24.

_____ was the seed that was buried in the ground alone. But He didn't remain buried, he was resurrected to a New Life and became the _____ of the harvest to God.

7) Read Romans 6:4-7. How can we be “planted together with Christ in the likeness of his death”? _____

8) If we are “buried with him by baptism into _____,” as Christ was resurrected as the Firstfruits from the dead, so “we also should _____ in Newness of _____.” (verse 4)

The wonderful, exciting, and powerful secret message of the Feast of Weeks is that we can be part of the FRUITS of HARVEST to God NOW! We can be part of the New Creation, we can walk in that New and Living Way. We can follow the Perfect Lamb’s example by dying to Sin in the symbol of baptism. We can choose to NO LONGER serve and obey that wicked tyrant. We can also be part of Christ’s resurrection in symbol, by rising out of the waters of baptism like Christ rose from the dead. In symbol, we bring our Firstfruits to God by walking in Newness of Life.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above... Colossians 3:1

9) Look at the following verses and list some of the fruits or harvest that we can produce and present to God when we walk in Newness of Life?

a) Luke 3:8 _____

b) Hebrews 13:15 _____

c) Romans 6:22 _____

d) Galatians 5:22-25 _____

10) Christ's Firstfruit offering was different than the Firstfruit offerings that were presented at the Feast of Weeks. Christ's Firstfruit offering contained no leaven, but the Feast of Weeks offering COULD contain leaven. In your own words, explain why the Firstfruit that represented Christ could not contain leaven, but the Feast of Weeks Firstfruits *could* contain leaven:

There is another main difference between the Christ-Firstfruit offering and the Feast of Weeks. A sheaf of grain was presented before God to represent the Christ-Firstfruits. But two loaves of bread were presented before God in the Feast of Weeks. Why two?

11) Read Romans 10:12-13. What two types of people can produce a harvest to

God, if they call upon Him? _____



*Drop down ye heavens from above,
and let the skies pour down
righteousness: let the earth open,
and let them bring forth salvation,
and let righteousness spring up
together... - Isaiah 45:8*

Waiting. Just like Jesus had told them to, the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem. So much had happened in the past fifty days. Their despair had turned to indescribable joy when the crucified One had appeared alive and explained how all the law and prophets had spoken of his Deliverance.

But their time with him was short – only forty days. He had gone to his Father, but had promised that One Day he would return again. While they waited for his second coming, he had left clear instructions: sow the seeds of the gospel beginning in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth. He was the Master, they were the Laborers, and the fields were already white with harvest.

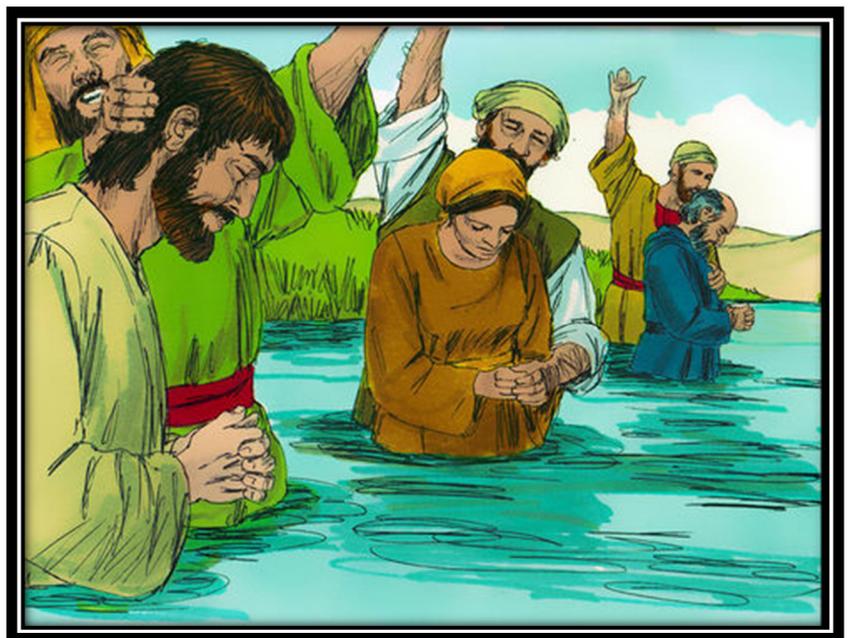
That was ten days ago. He had told them to wait in Jerusalem until they were given the Holy Spirit power. And so they sat together in a house, waiting.

Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, filling the house. And there appeared cloven tongues of fire, sitting on their heads. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in many languages.

This! This is what they had been waiting for! At that very moment outside of the house, multitudes from every nation under heaven had gathered to bring their Feast of Weeks Firstfruits to Jerusalem for Pentecost. The disciples must teach them to bring spiritual Firstfruits of Repentance and Holiness... and now they could teach each one *in their own language*.

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you for the remission of sins,” Peter cried. “For the promise is unto you, and your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

Then they that gladly received the gospel-seed were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.



The harvest that began in Jerusalem, would be far reaching -
to the very ends of the earth.

And it would be a harvest that would continue, through the drought of summer
until the Master's return.



Lesson Eight - Epilogue **The Drought of Summer**

- 1) Read Isaiah 44:3. God is making the connection here between the pouring of water on dry ground and the pouring of His _____ upon the seed.

2) When the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit power on the Feast of Weeks, Peter explains it as a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy that said: "I will _____ out of my _____ upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy..." Acts 2:17.

In Israel, there are two rainy seasons – a spring rainy season and fall rainy season. The months in between are scorching and dry.

3) Christ's first advent, and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit gifts were the prophesied rainy season that coincided with the spring feasts. What might the fall rains be? Psalm 72:6 describes details about Christ's second Coming as King to reign on the earth. What does it say he will come down like?

Then we shall know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and the former rain unto the earth. Hosea 6:3

4) If we live AFTER the spring rains of the Holy Spirit gifts that gave roots for the harvest to begin, but BEFORE the fall rain at Christ's Coming – what season do we live in right now? _____

5) Since we live in a time of drought – when there are no prophets, or Holy Spirit gifts, or direct revelation from God raining His word upon us – where should we find water to grow fruit for Him (Ephesians 5:26)? _____

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. Hosea 10:12

Labour on! There is so much work to be done beneath the scorching, hot summer sun. There is no time to waste, to sit in the shade. The plants must be carefully cultivated if they are to produce a harvest.

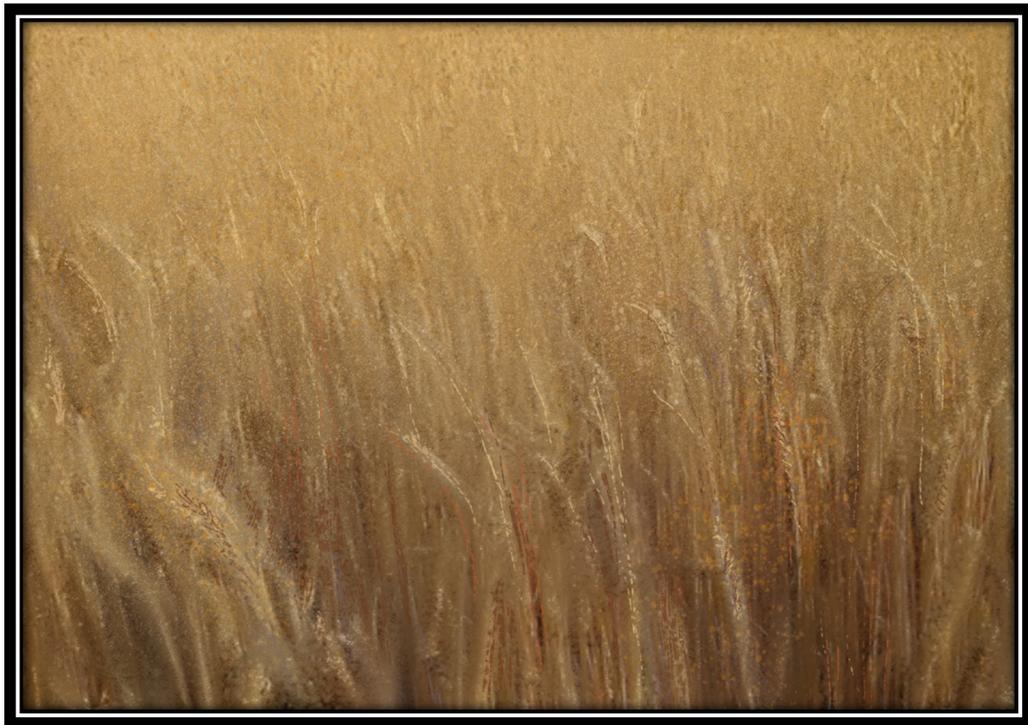
a) What do you need to be doing in God's field RIGHT NOW so that you can present a harvest when Christ returns? ...You don't want God's word falling on the wayside for the birds to eat (Mark 4:4). Instead, you must break up your "fallow ground" – or till the ground so that it is soft for a seed to be planted in. How do you think you can break up or till your fallow ground?

b) You must rid the ground of stones (Mark 4:5), because they will block your roots from growing. What stones do you think you can remove from your thoughts and life?

c) You must cut down the thorns (Mark 4:7, 19). What thorns can you think of that you want to cut down so you can grow fruit better?

d) And you must water, water, water. How will you water your plants so you can produce the fruits of the spirit and a harvest of righteousness?

e) Finally, don't give up!! We can't grow faint despite the scorching hot sun.
What does Galatians 6:9 tell us we should not grow weary in?



Copy below (or on a separate piece of paper) James 5:7-8.

The farmer slowly wiped the sweat that dripped from his forehead. The hot sun beat down relentlessly, but there was so much to be done.

It was a labor of patience. Tilling the ground took time, breaking up the hard ground and removing any rocks that might be in the way of roots. Planting the seeds took time. It took time before the seeds sprouted. It took time to constantly dig out the thorns that seemed to grow faster than any good plant. It took time to prune the plants. And it took time to water every... single... day.



At times it was easy to feel weary and want to stop. But he knew he must endure...

It would all be worth it when it was time to taste the sweet fruits of harvest.

Soon the Trumpets would blow, and the harvest would then be over. The Feast of Trumpets ushered the end of the harvest. There would be a final ingathering of fruits, concluding with a joyful thanksgiving celebration.

This was the joy the farmer knew lay ahead. But until then he must labor on.

The most important part of any study are the lessons that we can take away to glorify our Father better in our lives.

To wrap up the study then, here is a list of some of the lessons that the Spring Feasts might bring to mind. Circle two of them that you would like to focus on over the next week. In the space below, write down exactly what action you will do to focus on that lesson. (For example, if you choose: “Water. Water. Water.”, you might write down something like this: “I would like to read my Bible first thing in the morning every day so that I have the water of the word in my mind throughout the day.”)

- Turning and trusting in God, Who alone can save out of trouble
- Having faith in the One True God alone
- Not obeying the tyrant Sin who rules over us
- Getting rid of leaven in our lives
- Praising God for providing a way of Deliverance from Sin and Death
- Producing a harvest of righteousness and holiness
- Producing the fruits of the spirit
- Sharing the gospel seed
- Getting rid of stones
- Getting rid of thorns
- Water. Water. Water.
- Enduring the heat of trials, and don't give up!

Over the next week, I would like to focus on:

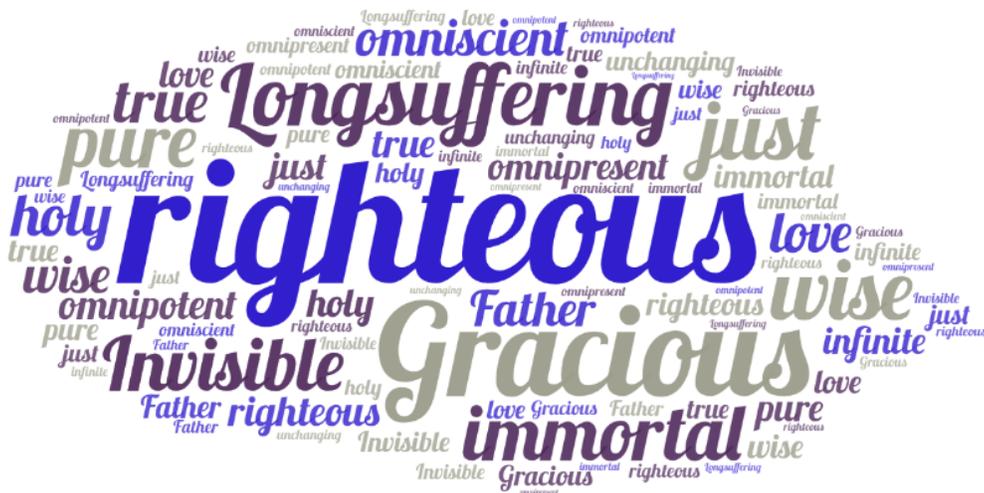
1) _____

2) _____

Finally, no harvest can grow without the blessing of our Heavenly Father.

*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.
2 Corinthians 9:10 (ESV)*

1) Once again, a good place to start a prayer is to think about what God is like. This word cloud lists many of the ways the Bible describes God. Pick out three characteristics that you would like to include in your prayer. Write them in section 1) of the prayer on the following page.



- 2) Think about the way that God has provided Deliverance from Sin and Death by providing His own son, without spot and blemish. In your prayer, include praises and thanksgiving for providing this Great Deliverance. Write this in section 2).
- 3) Next, since Christ's death and resurrection has provided a New and Living way, think about ways that you would like to produce a harvest or fruit to God. Think about the rocks and thorns – the challenges that make it hard to produce a harvest for God. In your prayer, ask for God's help as you labour to grow this fruit for Him. Write this in section 3).
- 4) Lastly, think about ways that you can encourage others to grow a harvest for God. In your prayer, ask for God's guidance so that you can help others grow too. Write this in section 4).

When you are finished with section 4), use what you have written to offer a prayer to God in a quiet place.

A Harvest Prayer

1) *O Lord God of heaven and earth – You are...* _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Amen.

