



# God Ordains the Passover

*Exodus 12–13*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will see God's power and sovereignty.

## LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will be able to

- Describe the elements of God's judgment as seen in the last plague.
- Describe the responsibilities of the Israelites at Passover.
- State the event by which God showed His mercy.
- Explain that Jesus Christ was the Passover lamb for Christians.

## KEY VERSE

"So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance" (Exodus 12:17).

## APPLICATION

- Praise God for His awesome power and tender mercy.
- Trust Christ as the final Passover lamb.
- Tell others about Christ's death for sin.

## NEXT WEEK

God Parts the Red Sea  
Read Exodus 13–15.

### Symbol Key



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

Although Egypt had been decimated by nine plagues, Pharaoh refused to obey God and let the people of Israel go. God had hardened Pharaoh’s heart and sent the plagues so that both Egypt and Israel would know that Yahweh is God (Ex. 7:5; 10:1–3). All God’s actions in Egypt would be remembered by Israel, but none would be more significant than the last plague. The last plague meant devastation for Egypt, but for Israel it meant redemption.

*Redemption* refers to buying something back. While *deliverance* and *redemption* often are used interchangeably, *deliverance* means setting free and *redemption* entails returning something to the original owner. From the very first encounter with Pharaoh, God had commanded Pharaoh, “Let my people go” (Ex. 5:1). Israel was God’s possession. With the tenth plague, God finally redeemed his people from Egypt. In Exodus 11–13, Moses both narrates the events surrounding the redemption and teaches the people to remember its significance.

### Events of Redemption

After the ninth plague, Pharaoh warned that Moses would be killed if he saw his face again (Ex. 10:28). Moses then spoke his last words to Pharaoh. He told Pharaoh that at midnight all the firstborn of Egypt would die, whether the son of Pharaoh, the son of a servant, or the firstborn of an animal (Ex. 11:4–5). God would kill the Egyptians by going “into the midst of Egypt” (11:4). Yahweh Himself would be among the people.

Moses told Pharaoh that a cry would go up from Egypt, but not even a dog would bark among the Israelites (Ex. 11:7). God was going to have mercy on the Israelites. He gave them a sign so they could know He would pass over them (Ex. 12:13). A few days before, God had commanded each Israelite family to take for themselves a year-old lamb or goat without blemish (Ex. 12:5). They were told to keep it for four days, and on the fifth day they were to kill it at twilight (12:6). Each family was to eat as much of the lamb as possible. If the lamb was too large for one family, they should eat it with another family (Ex. 12:3–4). They were commanded to take the blood and put it on the doorposts and the lintel of the houses (12:7). Then the animal was to be cooked over a fire and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (12:8). They were commanded to not leave any leftovers (12:10), to be dressed, to eat in haste (12:11), and to not leave the house until morning (12:22).

The people of Israel obeyed God (Ex. 12:28). That night at midnight, when the Lord saw the blood on the doorframes, He passed over their houses. The firstborn sons of all the Egyptians died. “Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead” (12:30).

### Additional Reference Materials

*Moses and the Gods of  
Egypt: Studies in Exodus*  
by John J. Davis

*The MacArthur Study  
Bible* by John MacArthur

God chose to pour out His wrath upon the hard-hearted Egyptians. The Egyptians were not the only ones judged; God also executed judgment against all the gods of Egypt (Ex. 12:12). In doing so, He made known to the Egyptians, the Israelites, and the ancient Middle-Eastern world that Yahweh was the God of Israel. Pharaoh's gods were smashed, and his reputation as a god was discredited. He could not even save his own son! Finally, Pharaoh let the Israelites go. Because the Egyptians were afraid that they would all die (12:33), they urged the Israelites to leave.

Following God's command, the Israelites asked the Egyptians for gold, silver, and clothing (Ex. 12:35). God gave the Israelites favor, and "they plundered the Egyptians." God had told them to be ready to leave; now they did not even have time to let their dough rise (12:34). Six hundred thousand men, along with their families, left Egypt with great numbers of livestock. Exodus 12:40 says that the time the "children of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years." After 400 years, Israel left the place where they had been afflicted, just as God had promised Abraham (Gen. 15:13). They even came out with great possessions (15:14)!

### **Remembrance of Redemption**

God wanted Israel to never forget His passing over them. The first Passover occurred in the month of Abib (March/April). From then on, God told the Israelites to reckon Abib as the first month of the year. Every year on the tenth day of Abib, they were to select a spotless lamb or goat. On the fourteenth day, they were to sacrifice the lamb, eat the Passover dinner, and brush the lamb's blood on the doorposts and lintel (Ex. 12:3–11). To commemorate the quick exit from Egypt, the Israelites were told to eat only unleavened bread (bread that has not risen) for one week after Passover (12:3–10, 14–20). The Israelites were to follow these ordinances forever (Ex. 12:24). When the children asked what their parents were doing, the parents were to embrace the opportunity to tell them what God had done in Egypt (Ex. 12:26–27; 13:8).

Another remembrance God instituted was that every firstborn son and every firstborn animal was to be "set apart to the LORD" (Ex. 13:12). When the Passover lamb was sacrificed in Egypt, God allowed the lamb to redeem the lives of the firstborn Israelite men and animals. God redeemed them for His own service; their lives were redeemed so they would belong to God (Ex. 3:13). Just as those firstborn men and animals belonged to God, God decreed that every subsequent firstborn male would also belong to Him. The firstborn clean animals, such as lambs and goats, would be sacrificed; a firstborn son (whom God, of course, did not want to be sacrificed) could be redeemed through sacrifices (Ex. 13:13). Both the consecration of the firstborn and the Passover dinner were reminders of whom Israel belonged to and what God had done for them.

### **Significance of the Passover**

The Israelites had been redeemed from cruel Egyptian slavery. They were redeemed to be God's people, but sadly, they continually lived as their own master. They followed the ordinances of Passover, the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, and the Consecration of the Firstborn, but they forgot their Redeemer. The lambs had been sacrificed and the blood smeared so that they might serve God. But for the most part, their hearts were still in bondage to sin.

In describing the work of Christ on the cross, the New Testament writers joyously compared the work of Christ to the Passover lamb. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 5:7, "Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." Peter refers to Christ as "a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet. 1:19). These references would not have been lost

on any members of their Jewish audience. The Passover lamb was a reminder of the highlight of Jewish history. But Peter and Paul knew of a much better Passover lamb! The sacrifice of those first Passover lambs redeemed the Israelites from physical death, but Christ has redeemed believers from spiritual death and eternal hell. The blood of the first lamb led to Israel's escape from slavery to the Egyptians, but the death of Christ has redeemed believers from slavery to sin. The Israelites were physically free to worship God, but the Passover lamb did not rectify their hearts' condition. The sacrifice of Christ has truly atoned for believers' sins; the believer is a new creature, created in His image. By the time of Christ, the Jews rigorously observed Passover. They loved that they were God's chosen people. But their hearts were so hard that when the true Passover brought true redemption, they would not accept it. Praise God for His grace that brings repentant faith! Although the tenth plague and God's passing over Israel is a highlight of human history, our wonder should be infinitely greater for the redemption won through the sacrifice of Christ!

The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were established to remind the people of the exodus. They were unmistakable signs on their hands and memorials between their eyes of what God had done (Ex. 13:9). True believers, who know Christ as their Passover lamb, must never forget what Christ has done for them. The church must be faithful to its Passover celebration, the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper should not be easily dismissed. It should be a time of rejoicing because the worthy Lamb is exalted.

The church also must not forget what redemption means. Redemption means being bought back. The Israelites were commanded to bring a sacrifice to redeem their firstborn sons. The sacrifice would die in the son's place so that the son could live to serve God. Christ has died in the believer's place so that he can serve God. The believer has been set free from sin so that he can be a slave to righteousness. True joy over redemption will always lead believers to present their bodies as "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is [their] reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

How did Pharaoh turn the Israelites against Moses and Aaron?  
*He made the Israelites work harder.*

In Genesis 6, what promise did the Lord emphasize that He was going to keep?  
*To deliver the Israelites from Egypt.*

What are the first nine plagues, in order of occurrence?  
*Water to blood, frogs, lice, flies, livestock killed, boils, hail, locusts, and darkness.*

How did the Lord reveal His character?

*He showed that He was compassionate, just, and powerful by sending the plagues.*

How did the Lord make a distinction between the Israelites and the Egyptians during the plagues?

*He sent most of the plagues on only the Egyptians.*

Since God does not primarily use miracles to reveal Himself today, what does He use today?

*The Bible.*



### **Celebrations to Remember**

Using a calendar as a visual aid, talk about the various celebrations we observe during the year. As you talk to the students about their favorite holidays, ask them what their families do to celebrate special times together. Perhaps on special occasions their families do things that their parents did as children. In today's Bible lesson, we will learn about a special event in the history of God's people, an event that Israelites continue to celebrate and remember even today.



### **Ready, Set, Go**

Notify the students as they arrive, and remind them many times during the Point time, that they must be prepared at any moment to leave the classroom together and go to another location to receive a special surprise. Keep them in suspense. Make sure they understand that as soon as the time comes, you will tell them, and they must immediately stop whatever they are doing and line up at the door. Emphasize that when they leave, they need to be quiet and serious as they walk to the new location. Once the time comes, make the announcement and take the students out of the room and down the hall or outside to a predetermined spot. Once you all have reached the special location, you may reward the students for being prepared, leaving so quickly, and following your instructions. You can then reward them with a special treat as their surprise. You may even choose to tell the Bible story from this new location. This is a perfect lead-in to tell the students about how the Israelites were "prepared."



### **Deliverance or Redemption?**

Write definitions for *deliverance* and *redemption* on the board. *Deliverance* means setting something free, while *redemption* refers to buying something back to be returned to its original owner. Pass out an index card and pencil to each student. Instruct the students to write *deliverance* on one side and *redemption* on the other side. Present multiple examples of both meanings to the class. Ask the students to hold up their cards with the right term facing you after each example. Some examples include:

1. Use an adult volunteer who is willing to be placed in a cardboard box during the lesson. Have the volunteer occasionally hit the side of the box to demonstrate that he is trapped. After the lesson, let the volunteer free. (*deliverance*)
2. Bring to class a Bible that was left at church, and return it to the proper owner. (*redemption*)



## Bread-Baking Experiment

Materials: two bread machines and two identical bread mixes. (Choose a type of bread that does not take long to make.) Label the bread machines “leavened” and “unleavened.”

Directions: Before the lesson, explain to the class that you will be conducting an experiment to show them the difference between leavened and unleavened bread. Ask student volunteers to help you follow the directions on the bread-mix box, adding all ingredients and setting the bread machines to the right cycle. For the machine labeled “unleavened” bread, do NOT add the yeast when you get to that part of the instructions. Allow the bread to bake while you teach the lesson.

During the lesson, you may choose to stop during the lesson to allow the students to observe parts of the bread-making process (e.g., dough rising).

After the lesson, take the two loaves out of the bread machines. Lead the class in a discussion to compare and contrast the leavened and unleavened bread. Allow the students to taste pieces of each loaf. Use the experiment to illustrate Exodus 12:34.

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included to use during worship time. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

## Bible Lesson

### Reading of the Text

Read portions of Exodus 12–13.

### Introduction

Last week we learned what God did to start the process of delivering His people. Each plague sent upon Egypt was a direct assault on an Egyptian god. God was proving to Egypt, as well as to Israel, that He is the only God. In today’s study, we will learn in more detail the judgment of God and the mercy of God.

### Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

**LOQ:** What was the last plague God brought on Egypt?

**Answer:** The death of the firstborn.

**LOQ:** What was Moses supposed to tell Pharaoh?

**Answer:** To let His people go or He would send one more plague

**LOQ:** How did Pharaoh respond?

**Answer:** He continued to say no. He threatened Moses, telling him to not come back.



**LOQ:** When did the death of the firstborn happen?

**Answer:** During the night the Egyptians got up and found that the firstborn had died (Ex. 12:30).

**LOQ:** What is the Passover?

**Answer:** The first Passover was when the angel of the Lord “passed over” the homes of the Israelites when He judged the people of Egypt. It became a special celebration year after year to remember what great work God did in delivering Israel.

**LOQ:** What things did the Israelites do on the Passover?

**Answer:** They killed lamb and spread blood on the doorframes of their homes. They ate the lambs in a hurry, and they ate bread in a hurry. This was to remind them how fast they were supposed to leave Egypt. They also ate bitter herbs to remember the bitter life they had in Egypt.

**LOQ:** What kind of lamb were they supposed to use?

**Answer:** An unblemished lamb.

**LOQ:** What does *unblemished* mean?

**Answer:** It means perfect, without defect.

**LOQ:** What were they to do with the lamb?

**Answer:** Kill it at twilight.

**LOQ:** What were they to do with the blood?

**Answer:** Take hyssop and apply the blood around the doors, on the two sides, and on the lintel.

**LOQ:** What does *mercy* mean?

**Answer:** Mercy is not getting the punishment one deserves from God.

**LOQ:** To whom was the last plague directed?

**Answer:** Every firstborn of Egypt, both man and beast.

**LOQ:** How were they judged?

**Answer:** The angel of the Lord went through the land of Egypt and struck them down.

**LOQ:** Why were the Egyptians judged?

**Answer:** (1) They were disobedient to God. (2) They had killed the sons of the Israelites (Ex. 2). (3) God wanted to show His awesome power to Israel, Egypt, and the world.

**LOQ:** What took God’s judgment in order that the Israelites might be shown mercy?

**Answer:** The lamb without blemish.

### Summary

God instituted a Passover celebration for the people of Israel so they would remember the miraculous work He did for them. In it are several symbols that show that the people had to leave Egypt in a hurry. The Israelites painted lamb’s blood on the doorframes of their houses. When the angel of the Lord went over their homes, He would not kill the firstborn in the house. That night in all the

Egyptian households, the oldest male child was killed. Finally, the people of Egypt and even Pharaoh were ready to let Israel go. God used this to judge Egypt for killing the male Israelite children many years before. God also used this to proclaim His power to the nations.

### Application

These chapters in Exodus are the most important events in Jewish history. The Jews even made the month of the Passover the first month of the year. Up to the time of Christ, this was considered the most important holiday of the year. It marked the time when Israel officially became its own nation. Jesus died on the day of Passover some 1,500 years later. He became the Passover lamb for the Christian. He was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Because of Christ's work, God passes over the Christian in judgment. We should praise God for this awesome work that He did for Israel. We should be in awe of and in love with a God who is just yet shows such amazing mercy. We should also put our full trust in God's perfect Passover lamb, Jesus.



### Passover Acrostic

Write the acrostic "PASSOVER" vertically on the board, and ask the students to take notes on paper. As you teach about God's specific directions to the Israelites regarding all the preparations for Passover, write the corresponding phrases.

Pick out an unblemished lamb (vv. 3–5).

At twilight on the fourteenth day, kill it (v. 6).

Spread the blood on the doorposts and lintel (v. 7).

Serve the lamb roasted, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (v. 8).

Outfit yourselves with belt, staff, and sandals (v. 11).

Very carefully dispose of any leftovers (v. 10).

Eat in haste (v. 11).

Remain in your houses until morning (v. 22).



### Designated Dots

Pass out colored dot stickers as students walk in the door. Pass out twice as many yellow dots as all other colors combined. Make sure to pass out an even number of the other colors. Instruct the students with yellow dots to sit on the right side of the class and students with other colors to sit on the left side. Explain to the class that students on the right represent Israel and students on the left represent Egypt. When you get to Exodus 12:30, tell all students wearing a particular color dot to lie down on the ground as though they have died. Point out that no one died on the Israelite side during the Passover. After Exodus 12:36, instruct all the Israelites to get up, take the possessions of the Egyptians (Bibles, sweaters, etc.) and leave the classroom. Be sure the possessions are returned to the rightful owners when the students return. (Explain to the students that this activity is an example of how God kept His promise to redeem His chosen people.)

### Presentation Ideas



#### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



#### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.

## Praise and Worship

*Awesome God*

*Give Thanks*

*Go Down, Moses*

*I Will Sing of the Mercies*

*Lamb of God*

*Praise the Name of Jesus*

*There Is a Redeemer*

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### Following Orders

What do you think would have happened if an Israelite decided he was not going to exactly follow God's orders concerning the Passover? What if he did not want to kill one of his good lambs and instead sacrificed a sick one? Would God have accepted this offering? What would have happened if the lamb was not killed but was simply tied up at the doorstep and offered as a living sacrifice? We can come to God only according to God's will and plan. We cannot save ourselves our own way. Think back to Adam and Eve. Did God accept the fig leaves they made for themselves? What did He do instead? Was God pleased with Cain's offering? Noah also had to build the ark exactly as God instructed him, and in the same way, the Israelites had to perform the Passover exactly as God had instructed Moses.



### Passover Team Challenge

Divide the class into groups of four. Pass out four bowls, four spoons, a large box of adult cereal (something children may not enjoy eating), and a half-gallon of milk to each group. Instruct the students that this is a group challenge to eat everything, leaving no leftovers. Everyone in the group must participate until the food is gone. The first group to eat the entire box of cereal and drink all the milk is the winner. Use this activity as a means to review God's instructions that the Israelites were to leave no leftovers on the night of the Passover.



### "God Ordains the Passover"

Use the work sheet at the back of this lesson to reinforce today's Bible lesson.



### Journal Page: "Passover Pictures"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can work on the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

### Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



### MEMORY VERSE

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8).



### Fourth Commandment

If you have decided to assemble the Ten Commandments as you go through them, post the fourth commandment (Ex. 20:8). The Sabbath was the seventh day of the week. On the Sabbath, the Jews rested and worshiped God. Why did God give the fourth commandment? God wanted His people to remember that He was the creator. God rested on the seventh day, not because He was tired, but because He knew we would be. He also wanted His people to take a day each week to focus on worshiping Him.



# God *Ordains* the **Passover**



Exodus 12-13

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the last plague God sent on Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the requirements of the Passover lamb? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the sign that a house belonged to an Israelite family? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What would God do if He saw the blood on the doorposts? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Israelites were to remember the Passover by having a \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 12:14).
6. What happened at midnight in Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why were the Egyptians judged? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How did God show mercy to the Israelites? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Who became the Passover lamb for Christians? \_\_\_\_\_



# PASSOVER PICTURES

“So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore, you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance” (Ex. 12:17).

Do you know that pictures can make things easier to understand? There are many things God wants you to understand, so He uses pictures or symbols to help you. For example, did you know that the Passover is a picture of Christ?

Some symbols of the Passover are listed in the first column below. Draw a picture that represents it. Then look up the verse in the second column and write how that symbol speaks of Christ.

Spotless Lamb	1 Peter 1:19 _____ _____ _____
Blood	Mark 14:24 _____ _____ _____
Death Passes Over	John 10:28 _____ _____ _____

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Spotless Lamb	1 Peter 1:19 _____ _____ _____
Blood	Mark 14:24 _____ _____ _____
Death Passes Over	John 10:28 _____ _____ _____

The Passover helps me understand that Christ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

“Behold the Lamb of God” now means this to me:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

As Christ was observing the Passover with His disciples, He gave them the new covenant and spoke of His death using symbols. When you take Communion as a Christian, what do the symbols remind you of Christ?

The bread reminds me that Christ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The juice reminds me that Christ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, write a prayer telling Christ how thankful you are that He died for you.

The Passover helps me understand that Christ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

“Behold the Lamb of God” now means this to me:

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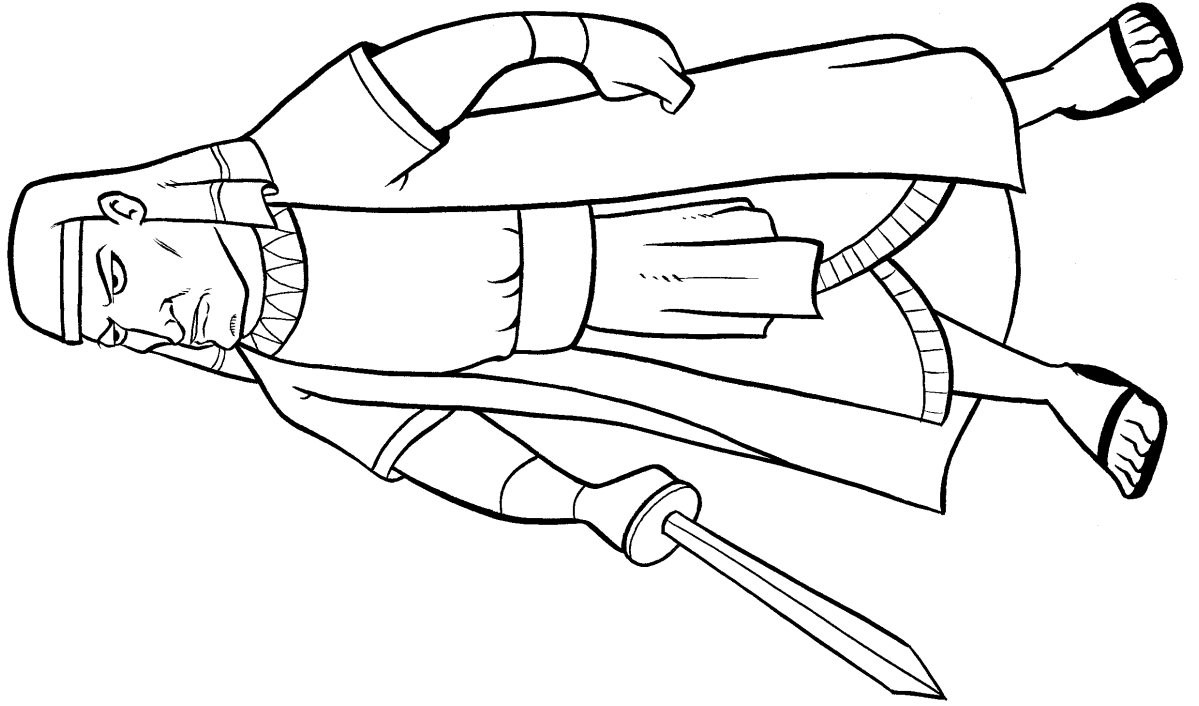
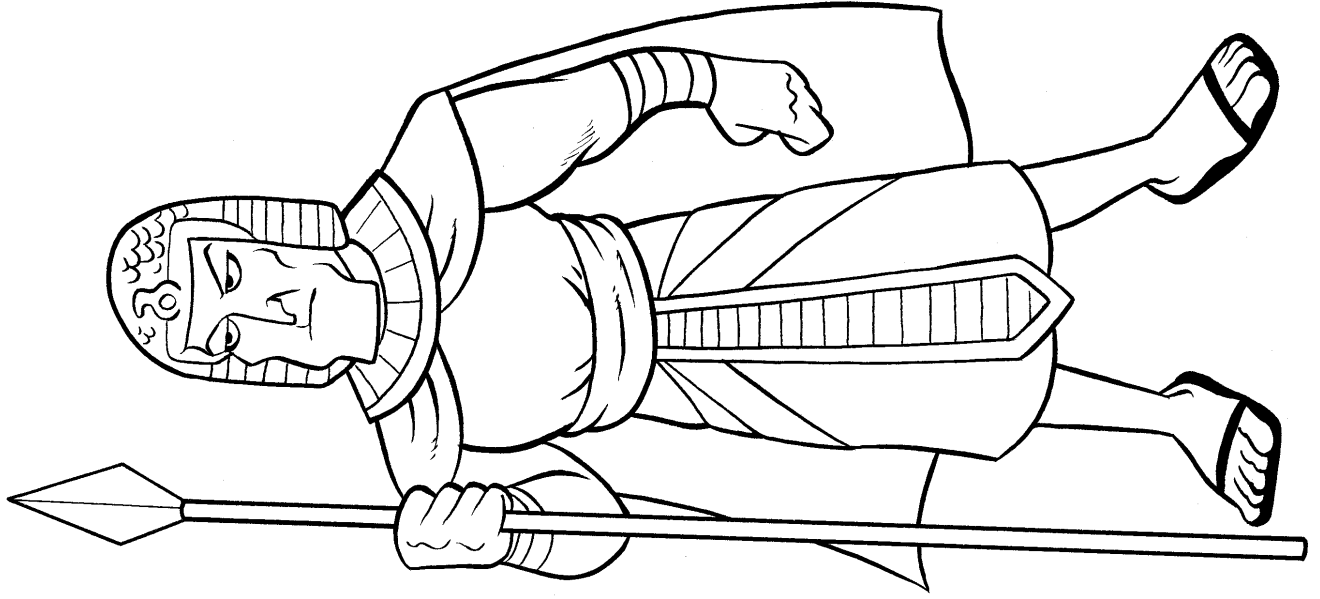
\_\_\_\_\_

The juice reminds me that Christ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, write a prayer telling Christ how thankful you are that He died for you.







**"And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it" (Exodus 12:7).**





**“Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire,  
with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it” (Exodus 12:8).**

