

# EXODUS 12 & 13

---

Parents, you are awesome! As much as we love our jobs and being with your kids, please know that you have even more influence on your child's faith formation than anyone! You can do this. This time that you spend learning together and talking about your faith is wonderful. You don't have to have all the answers to everything (who does?). The biggest thing is that your kids see that faith is important to you, and that learning about God's story as a family and how those stories changes our lives today will have a huge impact. Thank you for your work and dedication to your faith and to your kids' faith!

Below are some ideas for learning about the story and activities for thinking about how the story applies to our lives.

## **Read scripture with child(ren)**

*Exodus 12: 1-13, 13: 1-8*

## **What Happened in the Story?**

- What do you think about the story for today? What jumped out at you either because it was nice or What do you think about the story for today? What jumped out at you either because it was nice or strange or confusing? (Let kids think about it on their own and spark conversations based on their thoughts first)
- How would you feel if you were one of the Israelites at the first Passover? Would it be scary? Exciting? Hopeful?
- What does it say about God that God fought to free those who were being oppressed and enslaved and mistreated?
  - *Even though God is the most powerful being, that doesn't mean God only sides with groups who hold the most power.*
  - *God hears the cries of those who are suffering and uses God's power to bring freedom and healing.*
    - *God is compassionate, merciful, and has a sense of justice*
  - *God knows we need regular reminders of the times God has acted for our benefit. It can be easy to forget God's faithfulness when life gets hard again. (Yearly Passover festival)*

## Coloring page

Take time to color in the coloring page. You can choose to save them each week, three-hole punch them, then put them into a three-pronged folder at the end of the year to create their own story Bible.



### Craft: Ready to Go!

#### What you'll need:

Card stock, one per child

Scissors

String

Paper punch

Markers/crayons

"We are going to make a craft that helps us remember that on that first Passover they were to eat fast and be ready to go! We are going to make some shoes to lace up to remind us of those first Israelites who had to make sure their shoes were laced up and ready to go."

First, have kids draw an outline of their shoe print onto their card stock, then they'll cut them out. Next, they'll use a paper punch to make holes along the edges of the top 2/3 of the shoe. They can then decorate their shoes and write 'Eat Fast' on one heel and 'be ready to go' on the other heel. To string up their laces, I'd suggest starting at the tie end, so that it leaves one long piece ready for tying. Then they can string it through until it comes back up to the other side, cutting the other end with enough extra for them to be able to tie a bow together with the first side.

## Story Meditation

Taking time to meditate with scriptures is a great way to teach kids how to connect more deeply with God and the Bible. Plus, today more than ever, it's so good to teach kids how to meditate and calm themselves down and practice breathing techniques every week. I would encourage you to incorporate Story Meditation each week. You can either show the video to the kids and have them do this meditation with me, or you can watch it ahead of time, learn it, and be the leader in person yourself. The prayer in it will change each week to fit each story lesson.

Find the story meditation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3QAMjAvLd0&feature=youtu.be>

## Service Project: Refugee Notes

### What you'll need:

Note Template, printed one per child

Markers

"The Israelites were grateful to be able to leave behind the suffering they experienced living in Egypt. The next part of their journey was to find their new home, but even as they faced this challenge, they knew God was with them. Today, over 65 million people throughout the world also have to leave the countries where they were living because of the suffering they experience. One way we can remind them that God is with them in their journey is to welcome those who end up living in the United States."

Have kids draw a cheerful picture on their welcome notes (*welcome note consists of any size piece of paper with the word "welcome" as a header*). You can contact the nearest Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (or any other refugee resettling organization) to ask if you can send them welcome notes for refugees from your kids. You can offer them as a gift that they can distribute to refugees as they get settled in. Make sure you tell your kids not to put religious imagery on them. Making them feel welcome even without an explicitly Christian message is still a great way to show God's love.

## **Faith Story Prompts**

At some point, you can tell them a faith story of yours related to this story of creation. Hearing about your faith each week is a way for you to witness to the gospel, giving them examples of what faith looks like as it is enacted in and affected by life. Here are some ideas:

- Have you ever experienced God working in your life in a way that set you free, either physically, emotionally, relationally, or spiritually?
- Have you seen God at work setting someone else free in some way? Healing from an illness? Relationship reconciliation? Turning their life around? Discovering (or rediscovering) their faith?
- Like the Passover meal reminding the Jewish community today of what God had done for them in Egypt, do you have a regular ritual that reminds you of something God has done for you in your life?

## **Discipleship Take Away**

"Jewish people continue to celebrate the Passover by eating that special meal every year. It reminds them of what God has done and that God is faithful. As disciples, it is important for us to remember what God has done in our lives, too. We may not see God at work in our lives in ways as big as how God worked in Egypt when God sent the 10 plagues to set them free, but God is still at work in our lives for our healing. One way we can remember what God has done in our lives is through talking about what we are grateful for at the end of each day. It could be things you are grateful for in general, like having a family who takes care of you or enough food to eat each day, or it could be specific to something that day like you went on a really nice hike in nature or you had a really good talk with someone.

To practice, let's go around and each say something you are grateful for - either something in general about your life or specific that happened recently."

## **Closing Prayer**

"Let's close our eyes and close our hands and pray,

Dear God,

you hear our cries of suffering and promise to be with us. Not only that but you work for healing and freedom in our world today. Thank you for your love in action. Help us to see and remember all that you do. Amen."

### **Blessing**

Make the sign of the cross in the air in front of each of them as you look them in the eye and say, "God is with you."

### **Throughout the Week**

In your prayers this week, you could pray a special prayer for all those who live in places of suffering and for refugees around the world who are seeking a safe place to live.

One way we can remember God's faithfulness, too, is by sharing something we are grateful for at the end of each day. Either for the week or for the whole year, you could take some time at supper or bedtime to have everyone share something they are grateful for – either in general about their life or about something specific that happened that day.

# Exodus 12 & 13

The Promise of Passover

