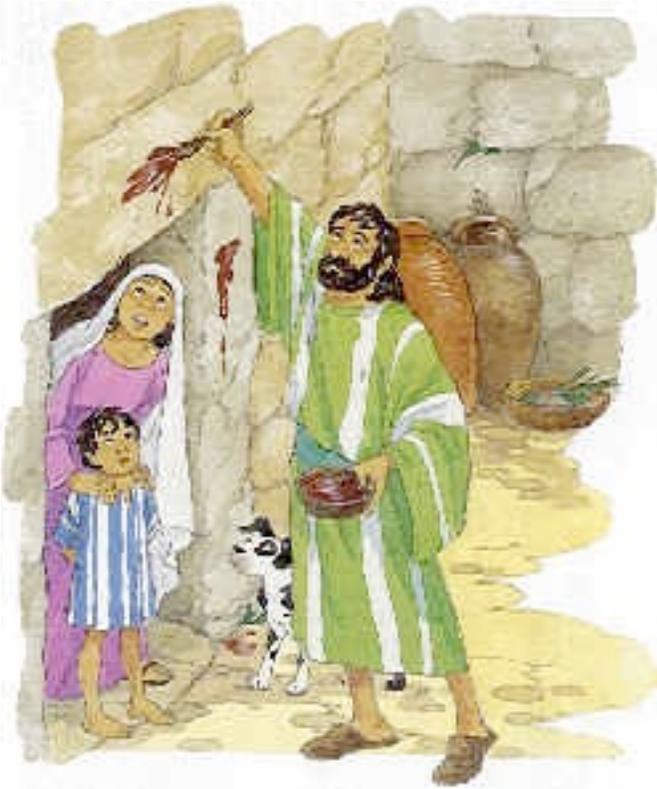


September 30, 2012

## Lesson 4: Passover



### Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

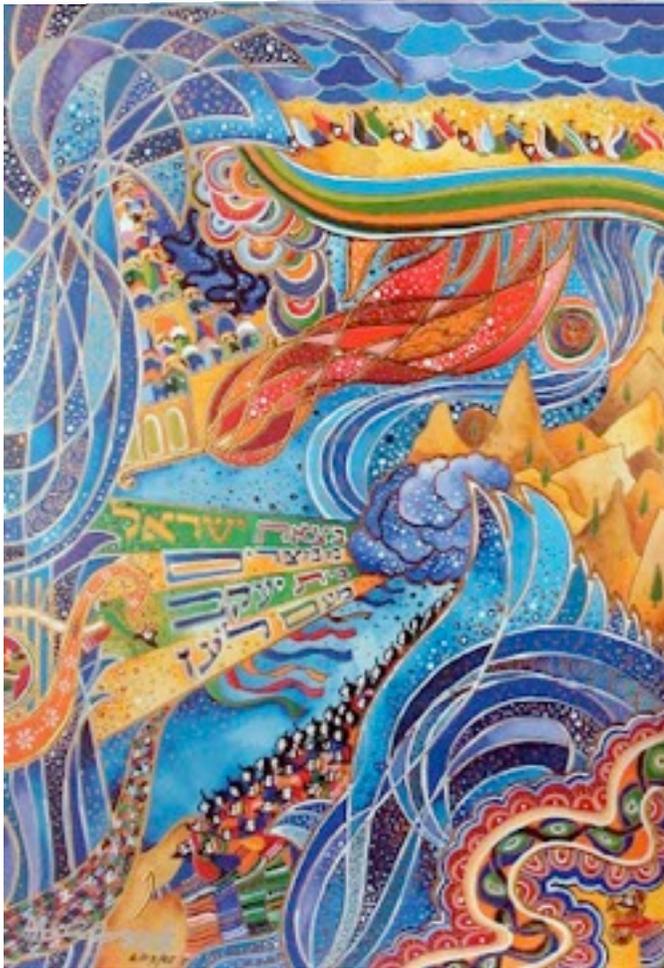
*1 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2 This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. 4 If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 7 They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened*

*bread and bitter herbs. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. 10 You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11 This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

*13:1 The Lord said to Moses: 2 Consecrate to me all the firstborn; whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, is mine. 3 Moses said to the people, "Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the Lord brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten. 4 Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. 5 When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this observance in this month. 6 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festival to the Lord. 7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen in your possession, and no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory. 8 You shall tell your child on that day, "It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt."*

# Passover

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8



*“Passover” by Raphael Abecassis*  
([alphaomegaarts.blogspot.com](http://alphaomegaarts.blogspot.com))

*For your Reflection: Read Exodus 1-15 during this week. What part of the story catches your attention? What fascinates you? What part is your favorite? Are there any parts that make you uncomfortable? Where in this story do you hear a reminder of the promise that God will save and free you from all that enslaves you?*

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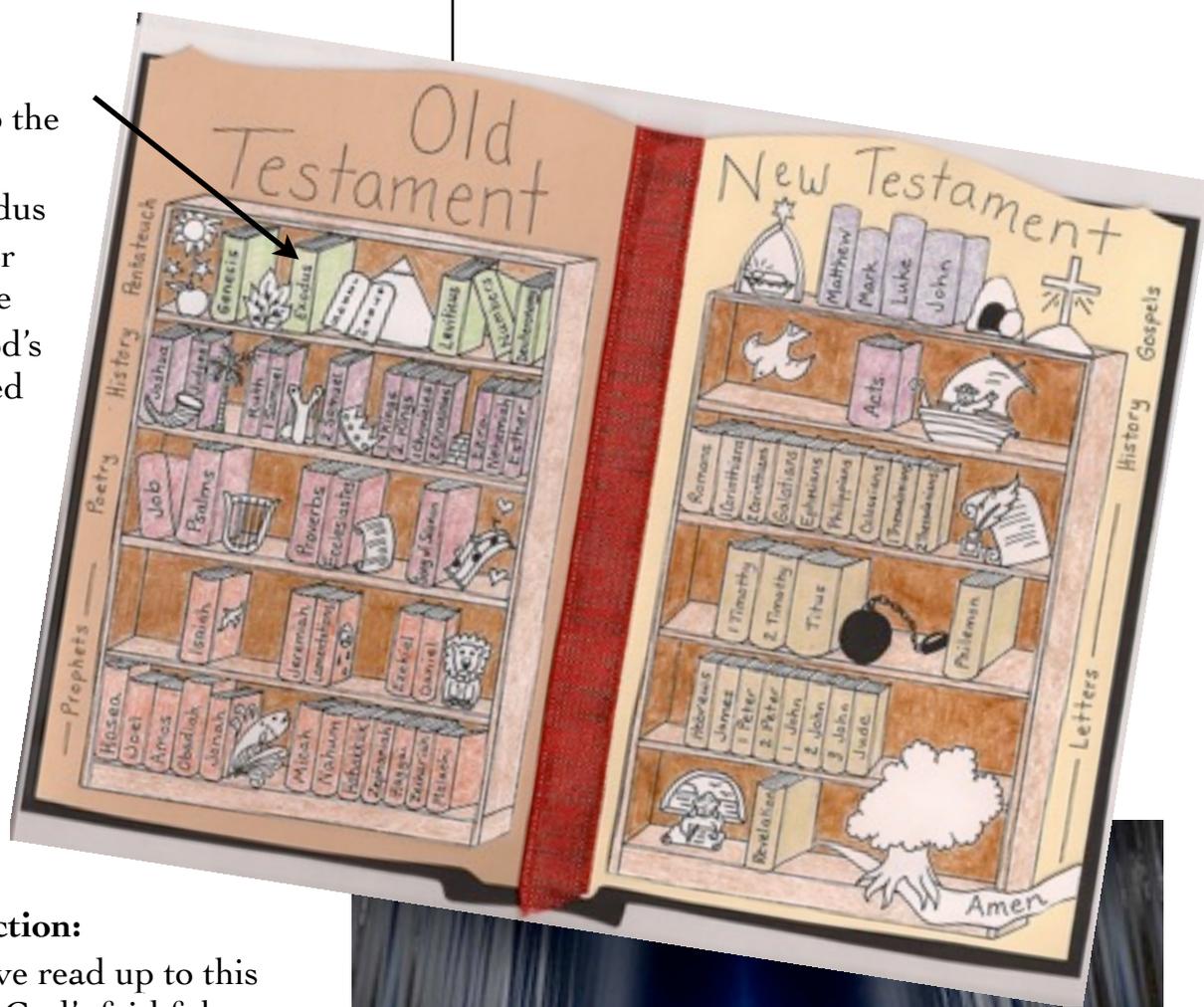
**The Big Story Truth:** When God’s people were in slavery in Egypt, God did mighty things to rescue them so they could be free to worship God. The blood of a lamb covering the doors of the house was a sign that those who lived inside were the people of God and they were saved. When we are trapped by sin, God does mighty things to rescue us too, including sending Jesus to be the lamb of God, through whom we are saved.

**About the Scripture Passage:** The children will remember Joseph’s family finding refuge in Egypt during the time of famine during last week’s lesson. This week, we hear what happened years later, after the family grew to the point where they started to outnumber everyone else. A new Pharaoh became king who didn’t know Joseph or his family. He made the whole family slaves in Egypt. In order to try to stop them from becoming too powerful he even gave the order for all the baby boys to be killed. Life was horrible for the Israelites. We’re told in Exodus 3:7 that God saw the misery of God’s people and heard their cry. God made a way to save one of those little boys. God made a way for that little boy miraculously to be adopted into Pharaoh’s household. And when Moses, that little boy grew up, God spoke to him in the form of a burning bush and called him to go and lead God’s people out of Egypt. Pharaoh wasn’t so keen on letting the Israelites go, however. He became stubborn and unyielding, even as God increasingly revealed his judgement through increasing plagues. Finally, the last plague was that all the firstborn in Egypt would die. God gave instructions that anyone who listened to God would be saved by putting the blood of the lamb on their door. The Israelites were saved. The plagued “passed over” them. They were set free.



### Where are we?

Today we move into the second book of the Bible, Exodus. Exodus means “going out” or “exit.” In Exodus we read the story of God’s people as they are led out of Egypt.



### Making the Connection:

In the stories we have read up to this point, we have seen God’s faithfulness to the promise that he made to Abraham to bless his family and give them a land of their own. Today’s story is a continuation again of that promise. God continues to be faithful. Just as God was faithful to take care of the Israelites, God is faithful to the promise to take care of us too.

### Great Big Word

**DELIVERANCE**- God freeing the Israelites from slavery and freeing us from sin and death... it means nothing can separate us from God.

## *Large Group Intergenerational Event*

Since today is our 5th Sunday of the month, we will be having Sunday School today with students and teachers from both churches present. We are also inviting parents, grandparents, the adult Sunday School class, anyone who can to join us for this event.

The joint service today is a MissionFest. We get to hear from the representatives of a particular ministry about their work and our offering goes to support that ministry. This year, our MissionFest presenters are coming to talk to us about the Center for Agricultural Development which is a mission of the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA with our companion synod in Tanzania.

The plan is for today's Sunday School to be led by those representatives. There may be some time at the beginning or end of Sunday School for you to have a few minutes to set things up for the kids or to debrief with them. Here are some suggestions for how you might spend any time that you have with the kids:

**Tell the Story:** Last week we heard about the family of Joseph in Egypt. This week I want to tell you what happened to Joseph's family. Well, they grew and grew and grew. And soon there were so many Israelites that the Egyptians got angry and afraid. They made the Israelites work as slaves and would not let them worship the one true God. The people cried out to God about what was going wrong. God answered their prayers and sent them a man named Moses to lead them out of Egypt. But Pharaoh was not happy about letting the Israelites go. He wouldn't do it! God sent plagues (bugs, hail, fire, you name it) to Pharaoh to try to make him understand... but Pharaoh did not let the people go. Finally, the 10th and worst plague came. The firstborn children in Egypt would die. But God also made a way for the children to be safe. God told everyone to take some blood from a lamb and put it on the door of the house and the plague would "pass over" and not hurt anyone inside. God saved the Israelites and got them out of Egypt! God told the people to remember that day and make it a holiday called "passover" that they would celebrate with their children and grandchildren for many generations.

**Sing:** God did many strong and mighty things to get the Israelites out of Egypt. The Israelite people had to be strong in the Lord and trust that God was going to take care of them. Sing “Be Strong in the Lord.”

**Make the Connection:** God heard the cries of the Israelites in slavery. God cared about their suffering. God also cares about those who are suffering in the world today. Today we are going to be learning about a place in Africa, a country called Tanzania. Has anyone ever traveled to Africa before? What do you know about Africa? Many people in Africa are very poor. The land is very dry in some places so it can be hard to grow food. There is sometimes not enough for everyone to eat. God has heard his people in Africa, though. God is providing ways so that the people in Africa can have enough food to eat and so that lives can be saved. One of the ways that God is working is through our friends in Tanzania. God has made a way so that those of us here in the Lutheran Church in Iowa and the people of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania can talk to one another and share what we know about farming so that we can grow more crops and have enough food. We have special guests here today to tell us more about that.