

**Theme** - The First Passover - God's love and protection

**Object** - A Yo-Yo to show and a ball of any size

**Scripture** - Exodus 12:1-14

*Sit on the floor or a small stool and have an older assistant or parent stand behind you. When you throw the ball up, the assistant will catch it. When you say down, they will drop it straight down to you.*

I'm sure that most of you have played with a yo-yo. A yo-yo is a simple toy, but it is a lot of fun. Some people can make the yo-yo do amazing tricks, but the main thing a yo-yo does is go up and down, up and down. That is also a good picture of some people, too...even you and me. We all have our "ups and downs," don't we? Sometimes we are happy and sometimes we are sad. We may be hardworking one day and lazy the next. We may be honest one day and dishonest the next. Can you think of other ways that we have "ups and downs?"

In our Bible lesson today, we will see that Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, also had his "ups and downs," and we will see how God punished Pharaoh for his wicked ways. When you think the people are having an "up," stand up. If you think they are having a "down," sit down.

God had spoken to Moses from a burning bush and told him to go to Pharaoh and tell him to **"set My people free"**. (Up) They had been slaves in Egypt for many years. (Down) So Moses and his brother, Aaron, went to see Pharaoh and asked him to **set God's people free**, (Up) but Pharaoh said, "No, I will not let them go." (Down)

Because Pharaoh refused to obey, God began to send terrible plagues on Egypt. One time, God sent **frogs** all over the land. There were so many frogs that Pharaoh thought he would croak. At other times, God sent **gnats, flies, and locusts**. That really **bugged** Pharaoh!

Well, Pharaoh had more ups and downs than a yo-yo. When God would send one of the plagues, Pharaoh would tell Moses that if God would make it go away, he would let his people go. (Up) But after God made the plague go away, Pharaoh would change his mind and refuse to let the people go. (Down) God tried **10 times** (Up) but since Pharaoh was so hard-hearted and refused to let God's people go, God continued to send plagues upon Egypt (Down)

The final plague was the worst of all. God told Moses to tell Pharaoh that the last plague would be so terrible that it would change his heart and he would let the people go. Every firstborn son and every firstborn male animal would die. How sad! It is always sad to see what happens to people when they refuse to obey God. Since Pharaoh and the people in Egypt refused to do what God told them to do, they suffered terribly! That may be hard to understand, **but remember—God had given them many opportunities to do what He told them to do, (Up) but they refused. (Down)**

God gave Moses instructions on how his own people were to prepare for the last plague. He said that every family was to take a one-year-old lamb, one that was perfect in every way, and prepare a meal. They were to take some of the blood from the lamb and paint it on the sides and tops of the doorway of their houses.

God warned the people that there was going to be a lot of death in the land. God said to His people, "The blood will serve as a sign on the houses where you live. When I see the blood I will **pass over** you—no harm will touch you when I strike the land of Egypt." (Up)

After God sent that tenth plague,(down) Pharaoh changed his mind and freed God's people. (Up) 600,000 men plus women and children were saved that day.

God cares for us just like He cared for His children in Egypt long ago. In fact, He made a way for us to get out of our messes too. Just like Pharaoh, we have our ups and downs, but Jesus died on the cross for all the wrong things we have done. If we believe in Him and ask Him to come into our hearts, He makes a way for us to go to heaven.

Dear God, we know that some of the things we do are not pleasing to you. We are thankful that you sent Jesus to show us how to make good choices. In Jesus, we have forgiveness. In Jesus' name, amen.

## **The First Passover Group Activities** Sermon Title: ["The First Passover"](#)

**Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-14**      **SING A SONG:**

MY GOD IS SO GREAT, SO STRONG AND SO MIGHTY; JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN; THANK YOU LORD. (The internet has many "funny passover songs for children", if desired.)

### **UPS AND DOWNS:**

When the teacher has the class divided into two teams, the teams will be named and then the teacher can call out one team's name to stand UP and another team's name to sit DOWN.. and go back and forth .. or the teacher can have all the children play together and just stand UP when the teacher shouts UP, or DOWN when the teacher shouts DOWN. Any variation of UPS and DOWNS will be fine and will lead into the lesson today.

### **YO YO TO GO GO:**

Give each child a yo yo to see how long it can go go (UP and DOWN). Let children do other ideas with their yo yo's before getting in a circle to listen to today's story.

### **ACT IT OUT:**

Let the children dress up as Moses or Pharaoh in crowns made from wide strips of paper and taped on the child's head after decorating with markers and glitter. Children can use water and add red food coloring for the water turning into blood, or small pieces of ice for the hail plague, or a dark room when darkness covered them, etc -- Use imagination and let children make a memory of today's lesson that they will never forget. A large stick for a staff for Moses and also a rubber snake could be included for the children in acting out the story.

### **PAINT IT RED:**

Give children paper plates to color paint or finger paint RED, to stand for the blood in today's lesson, as a sign over the doors of their homes or the water turning to blood. Children can write, GOD'S LOVE AND PROTECTION on their red plates.

## **HOUSE SHAPES:**

Each child can be given a piece of construction paper and many shapes in other colors that the teacher has cut out before class time. The children can glue all the shapes into a form to look like a house or several houses and write words from today's lesson such as THE FIRST PASSOVER, or GOD'S LOVE AND PROTECTION, or THANK YOU JESUS, etc.

## **CROSS CUTTINGS:**

The children can run this as a relay if desired or each child just take the cross strips and form a cross of their own. If this is done as a relay, then the teams will take as many strips of paper as they can have time for, to form crosses on a long piece of white paper (butcher paper, etc) on a focal wall or one on the door frame of each room of your house. When the time is up, count how many crosses each team form in the allotted time. Just provide tape or glue to the strips of paper in the form of crosses. Let children know that the cross stands for GOD's Love and Protection for us in caring for us just like He cared for His children in Egypt long ago .

## **LOVE AND PROTECTION HEART:**

Give each child a large red heart to cut out and decorate. Glue a small square piece of paper to the front of the heart as a "door" and draw a small stick person or happy face behind the door to stand for the child that God loves and protects. Children could write, LOVE AND PROTECTION, or COME INTO MY HEART JESUS, on the outside of the heart.

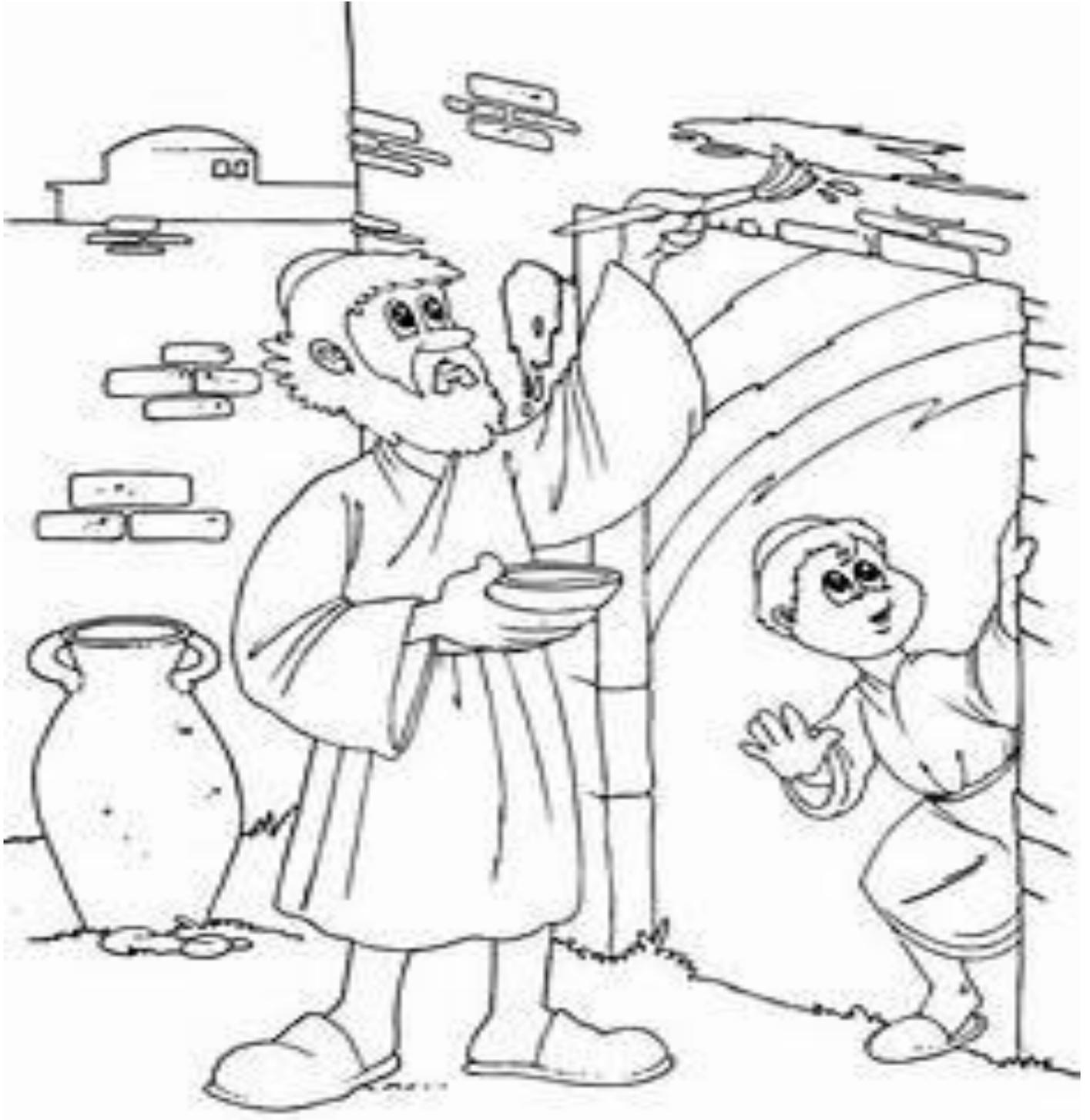
## **FORGIVENESS ACROSTIC:**

Write FORGIVENESS down the left side of a large poster board for children to work together to write a word or phrase about today's lesson, beside each of the letters of FORGIVENESS. Let children tell the class what that word or phrase means from today's story and in our lives as well.

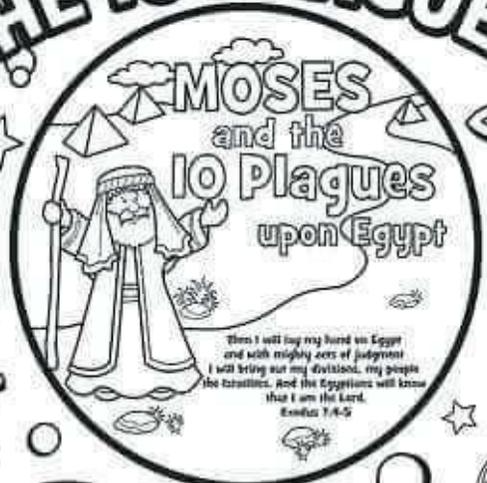
## **CHALK TALK:**

If there is an area outside where the children can do a chalk talk of today's lesson, then let all the children spread out in a certain area with their chalk and draw parts

of today's story that they remembered and ones that meant the most to them. Then take a short CHALK TALK WALK to each child's area and let them explain what they have drawn.



# ALL ABOUT THE 10 PLAGUES



**1.** Exodus 7:17-21

**10. PLAGUE ON FIRSTBORN**  
Exodus 12:29-30

**2. FROGS**  
Exodus 8:1-7

**DRAW THE FROGS.**

**9.** Exodus 10:21-23

**MAKE THE BACKGROUND DARK.**

**3.** Exodus 8:16-18

**8. LOCUSTS**  
Exodus 10:12-15

**DRAW THE LOCUSTS.**

**4. FLIES**  
Exodus 8:21-24

**DRAW THE FLIES.**

**5.** Exodus 9:1-7

**6. BOILS**  
Exodus 9:8-10

**DRAW THE BOILS ON THE PERSON.**

**7.** Exodus 9:22-26

**DRAW THE BOILS ON THE PERSON.**

## The First Passover

### Word Search

# The First Passover

"When I see the blood, I will pass over you." Exodus 12:13

The puzzle is based on Exodus 12:1-14



E N B R E A D F L R E D H O P  
A S F A Y I O P A S S O V E R  
D O O R V E E U I V B V Y L Q  
F R F Q Y Y V K Z S M U Q M V  
L J A B U R O C E K R A Z O B  
G D M E H M Z I X T Z A L B R  
P D I R Y E G Y P T W N E E E  
M L L Q L B J G T H G L U L S  
O A Y U S N U M D I A G G E C  
S M G F L B D A L V A J L B S  
E B T H T M G U A L T Z B X O  
S S P A E L M T P R A F L N A  
U K E Q C M E R B F O I O U B  
N M S F J Y N M V T J N O Y O  
U X O F G K T L A M B P D W J

|        |       |          |          |        |
|--------|-------|----------|----------|--------|
| MALE   | BREAD | ISRAEL   | AARON    | PLAGUE |
| FAMILY | MOSES | LAMB     | JUDGMENT | DOOR   |
| EGYPT  | BLOOD | PASSOVER | LAMBS    | MEAT   |

The First Passover  
Decoder

# The First Passover

"When I see the blood, I will pass over you." Exodus 12:13

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A | Y | O | G | U | B | H | V | S | K  | X  | R  | C  | F  | Q  | J  | E  | D  | L  | T  | P  | W  | N  | M  | Z  | I  |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

1. 19-1-24-6 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 18-17-14-17-13-20 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 9-7-17-17-21 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 4-3-1-20-9 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 6-19-3-3-18 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 9-26-18-17-9 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 20-3-21-9 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 18-3-3-12-9 \_\_\_\_\_
9. 21-1-9-9-3-8-17-12 \_\_\_\_\_
10. 21-19-1-4-5-17 \_\_\_\_\_

|       |          |        |       |        |
|-------|----------|--------|-------|--------|
| SHEEP | DOORS    | DEFECT | GOATS | PLAGUE |
| SIDES | PASSOVER | TOPS   | BLOOD | LAMB   |