

Moses' faithfulness

**Bible verses:**

Exodus 12:1-14,21-28,31
Passover

**Aim:**

To discover the first Passover

**Today's fruit:**

Faithfulness



In today's session we will explore the story of the Israelites as God delivered them from slavery in Egypt.

The story may raise a lot of questions about how our loving God could be part of such a horrible event. Through all of our questions about this story from Exodus, we will still be able to see God's faithfulness in every step of the Israelites' journey. We will also be able to think about God's faithfulness in our own lives.

Each child will need:

- Resources to build a pyramid, eg wooden building blocks, paper/plastic cups, playing cards – 2D or 3D, Lego, Duplo
- Resources for a seder plate activity – see Action it
- *Memory verse* wristband
- Sticky notes and pens/pencils
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Faithfulness*
- Flip chart (optional)



Start it

Say:

Our Bible story today is set in Ancient Egypt. Rather than a king, queen, president or prime

minister, the main leader of Egypt was called a Pharaoh. The Pharaohs often came up with weird and wonderful ideas to show how powerful they were. Let's watch the clip together and then we can have a go at creating one of the Pharaoh's bright ideas.

Video

Horrible Histories: Awful Egyptians: The First Pyramid uploaded by BritishSketchShowFan (2:13)

Challenge the children to build a pyramid with whatever available resources you have. Find out who can build their pyramid quickest.



Sing it

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

Say:

Our fruit for today is faithfulness.

Ask:

What do you think we mean when we say God is faithful?

Say:

Our song for today helps to understand what it means when we talk of God's faithfulness.

Song

'He is always faithful' hand motion music video by The Village Church (2:10)



Tell it

Say:

Today we are tackling another challenging story in the Bible. Rather than avoiding stories in the Bible where there is violence, we need to read them, think about them carefully and ask questions. I won't have all the answers to your questions about today's story, but that's OK - we are all learning together.

Say:

Before we look at today's Bible passage, let's find out the story so far.

Video

Moses and the Exodus Stories of the Bible by Saddleback Kids (5:17)

Say:

The Pharaoh of Egypt refused to let the Israelites go, and so God sent a number of plagues on their land – that means some really bad events would happen.

Ask:

What plagues did you spot as you were watching the clip? (*Turning water red / into blood; frogs; lice; flies; making cattle sick; boils; snow/hail; locusts; darkness; and a death in every home – the firstborn child*)

Say:

The Lord sent many plagues on the land of Egypt, but it was the final one that convinced Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go. The clip mentioned how Pharaoh woke up one morning and heard the cries of the people of Egypt. The story of why the people were upset is a hard one to hear as it may make us wonder how a loving God could be part of such a horrible act.

Say:

God gave the Israelites specific instructions for the night when he would set them free, to keep them safe. We find this story in the book of Exodus in the Old Testament.

Read:

‘The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: “This month will be the first month of the year for you. Both of you are to tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month each man must get one lamb. It is for the people in his house. There may not be enough people in his house to eat a whole lamb. Then he must share it with his closest neighbour. There must be enough lamb for everyone to eat. The lamb must be a one-year-old male. It must have nothing wrong with it. This animal can be either a young sheep or a young goat. Keep the animal with you to take care of it until the fourteenth day of the month. On that day all the people of the community of Israel will kill these animals. They will do this as soon as the sun goes down. The people must take some of the blood. They must put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes. These are the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. On this night they must roast the lamb over a fire. Then they must eat it with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the lamb raw or boiled in water. Roast the whole lamb over a fire – with its head, legs and inner organs. You must not leave any of it until morning. But if any of it is left over until morning, you must burn it with fire.

“This is the way you must eat it: You must be fully dressed as if you were going on a trip. You must have your sandals on, and you must have your walking stick in your hand. You must eat it in a hurry. This is the Lord’s Passover.”

(Exodus 12:1-11 *ICB*)

Say:

The Lord asked the people of Israel to sacrifice a lamb and use the blood to mark their doorframes.

Ask:

- Why do you think God told the people of Israel to be dressed and ready to leave?
- The little lamb would have been part of the household for four whole days. How do you think the family felt about sacrificing it?

Say:

The lamb was part of the offering to God on a night when he set his people free. God told them what would happen next.

Read:

'That night I will go through the land of Egypt. I will kill all the firstborn of animals and people in the land of Egypt. I will punish all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. But the blood will be a sign on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. Nothing terrible will hurt you when I punish the land of Egypt.'

(Exodus 12:12-13 *ICB*)

Say:

That night the Egyptians experienced a great deal of pain and suffering as their firstborn children and animals were killed. The Israelites were saved by the blood of the lamb on their doorframes. It's hard to think of our loving God involved in such a horrible story, even if it led to the freedom of his people.

Ask:

What questions would you ask God about this story?

Say:

We don't always find easy answers to the difficult questions we have about the Bible. Seeing the pain and suffering of his own people, Pharaoh let the Israelites go. This event, known as the Passover, is still celebrated and remembered today just as the Bible said it would be.

Read:

'You are always to remember this day. Celebrate it with a feast to the Lord. Your descendants are to honour the Lord with this feast from now on.'

(Exodus 12:14 *ICB*)

"You must keep this command. This law is for you and your descendants from now on. Do this when you go to the land the Lord has promised to give to you. When your children ask you, 'Why are we doing these things?' you will say, 'This is the Passover sacrifice to honour the Lord. When we were in Egypt, the Lord passed over the houses of Israel. The Lord killed the Egyptians, but he saved our homes.'" So now the people bowed down and worshipped the Lord. They did just as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.'

(Exodus 12:24-28 *ICB*)

Action it

The aim of this activity is to discover how Jewish people celebrate Passover today. Using the clip to provide context and resource links below, the children will create a seder plate and discuss what each item represents. Along with the content of the clip, the following information is provided to help with your discussions.

Video

What is Passover? Religious Studies – my life, my religion: Judaism by BBC Teach (stop at 4:12)

Seder plate

- Lamb bone: a symbol of the lamb that was offered as a Passover sacrifice
- Charoset/Haroset: a paste/condiment made of apples, nuts, sugar, cinnamon and wine, which represents the mortar or cement used by the Israelites to build the pyramids
- Bitter herbs: a reminder of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt
- Parsley: represents hope and renewal
- Horseradish: a reminder of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt
- Egg: represents lots of different things including the circle of life

Based on www.britannica.com/topic/seder-Passover-meal

Suggested seder plate craft

- **Colour, cut and glue your own seder plate** by darcymillerdesigns.com (emailed to you)
- **Colour, cut and glue your own seder plate** by Jewishmomsandcrafters.com (emailed to you)
- **Print and assemble a seder plate** by makeitjewish.com (needs cupcake cases)

Pray it

Say:

The Passover meal reminds Jewish people of God's faithfulness. As Christians we don't take part in this celebration, but there are still lots of ways that we can remember how God is faithful. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, sent to us as a baby boy. At Easter we remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and how he rose from the dead. We are reminded of God's faithfulness every day of our lives through his many blessings.

Ask:

What examples of God's faithfulness do you see in your life? Think about your home, school, community and church. How has God been faithful?

Give the children the opportunity to write on sticky notes the different ways that God has been faithful to them. A music suggestion is provided below to play as the children write. Ask the children to stick their ideas to a wall or flip chart. When the music stops, or you fade the music, read some of the examples and then pray with the group.

Listen

'Goodness of God' (official video) by Bethel Music & Jenn Johnson (7:32)

Say:

We have spent time thinking about all the ways God has been faithful. Our memory verse reminds us to keep all those things in mind when we look to the future. God has always been faithful in the past, and he will always be faithful in the future.

Share the memory verse with the group and distribute the wristbands. Remind the children to revisit this memory verse each day of the following week so that they can remember that God can be trusted.

Memory verse:

'Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed. We can trust God to do what he promised.'

(Hebrews 10:23 *ICB*)

Next week

Next week the children will be making harps from small boxes, eg tissue or shoeboxes or from file boxes. See Session Two for details. You may wish to ask the children to bring in a box with them next week.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Samuel meets Saul

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Exodus 12:1-14,21-28,31
Passover



Aim:

To discover the first
Passover



Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



Reflect

Write this week's memory verse in the centre of a piece of paper. Think back to all the examples of God's faithfulness that you talked about in the *Explore It* session. Add these to your piece of paper. As the week goes on, keep adding examples of God's faithfulness.



Bake

As part of the Passover feast, the Jews had to follow God's instructions carefully. Ask someone at home to help you make some Matzoh, the unleavened bread eaten during Passover. Make sure you follow the instructions carefully!

Homemade Matzoh recipe by Tesco.com

<https://realfood.tesco.com/recipes/homemade-matzoh.html>



Song for the week

'He is always faithful' hand motion music video by The Village Church



Memory verse

'Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed. We can trust God to do what he promised.'

(Hebrews 10:23 /CB)

Moses' faithfulness



Bible verses:
Exodus 14:21-28



Aim:
To learn that God is faithful



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness



Memory verse

'Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed. We can trust God to do what he promised.'

(Hebrews 10:23 *ICB*)



Start it

God is faithful – he does what he says – and Moses trusted him. Who do you trust?



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Exodus 14:21-28, when the Israelites were freed from slavery and crossed the Red Sea.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What would it be like to swim in the sea?
- I wonder what it looked like when Moses and the people walked through the sea? Could they see fish or whales without getting wet?
- God helped Moses by opening up the sea. Which people help you and how do they show it?
- Being faithful is like keeping a promise. Think of a promise you might make.

- What do you think that God has promised you?



Sing It

'If I were a butterfly' (lyrics and music) **'The butterfly song'** by Brian Howard, uploaded by Unreached Corners (3:09)

'Wonderful Lord' (official video) by Doug Horley (3:13)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Separate a pile of cushions/blankets and move through the middle
- Games involving taking something out of water while wearing a blindfold
- Make a kind promise and go and tell an adult
- Pretend some swimming actions by following the leader