



Confirmation

Learning, Growing, Professing



First Communion instruction at St Paul

Students in our 6th grade confirmation classes participate in 5 weeks of lessons, take a test, attend a Holy Communion retreat followed by a test on what they learned, and then complete their First Communion instruction by attending a Seder meal at church. In final preparation for the Seder meal we invite families to go through this small guide together. This will give biblical background to the events we are about to celebrate at the Seder and helps form a better understanding of the Lord's supper which Jesus instituted.

Moses a man of great Faith: From the moment of his birth the story of Moses is anything but normal. But this is the man that God choose to lead his people out of slavery and to Canaan a land flowing with milk and honey. God's chosen people would find their faith challenged throughout their journey. Read 'Who is Moses' on page 76 in the Faith Alive Bible.

Slavery: God's people had been in the hands of the Egyptians for many years, enduring many hardships. Moses went to Pharaoh asking to Let the people go, but Pharaoh was not to eager to give up his 'free' labor. So the Lord sent 10 plagues. These plagues would affect every man, woman, child, plant, and animal in the land. Review the plagues together reading (look at chapter headings) **Exodus Chapters 7-11.**

Ask: What plague would you find the most difficult? Why do you think God chose to show his almighty power in this way?

Passover: The final plague that was to come upon all people was the death of the firstborn from the throne of Pharaoh to the cattle. God then gave very specific directions to Moses to share with the people. **Read Exodus 12:1-13**

Ask: What animal was to be the most important element of the festival? What were they to do with the animal? What were they to do with the blood? What did the angel of death do upon seeing blood on the door posts of the houses?

The blood of the lamb would rescue God's people physically from the plague of death of the firstborn. Pharaoh then set the people free after this plague. God instructed his people to remember this moment and to celebrate it as an annual feast (Feast of Unleavened Bread). This event was to be shared for generations to come and never forgotten.

Seder Meal: During the Seder meal we will again explore these plagues, and the deep meaning behind the preparations that took place prior to the final plague. We will eat unleavened bread, bitter herbs dipped in salt water, horseradish, and charoseth, and talk about the lamb that was slaughtered.

Saved by the Blood: Just like God's people were stuck in the bonds of slavery, we too are slaves to our sins. The Passover, with its spotless lamb, was a way God connected His people throughout the Old Testament to the cross of Jesus. Read John 1:29, 36 and 'The Lamb of God' on page 1233 in the Faith Alive Bible.

Ask: What is Jesus called? Why is that a fitting title?

Jesus is the perfect Passover Lamb of God whose blood covered us and cleanses us from sin.

Jesus Institutes the Lord's Supper: Jesus gathered his disciples during the Feast of Unleaven bread to celebrate the Passover. Jesus Christ, who is true God and true man, instituted this sacrament; giving His own body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. **Read Mark 14:12-16, 22-25**

Continue learning more about the Sacrament of the Altar by looking at the enclosed recipe cards.