

## HOW GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE

## UNIT ONE: God Rescued His People

**Lesson 6:****A Lamb for Supper**

## CONTENT:

1. Before sending the last plague, God told the Israelites to have a special meal: Each family was to take a spotless lamb and kill it. They had to put some of the blood on the doorposts and lintel of their houses. Then they were to eat it with bread and herbs and be ready to leave. This meal was called the Passover, because God would pass over the houses with the lamb's blood. God asked them to remember this special meal and celebrate it every year.
2. The Israelites obeyed. That night all the first-born in Egypt died. Only the Israelites were saved. At last Pharaoh let them go free.
3. When John the Baptist saw Jesus he cried out, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" He realised that Jesus would be like a lamb who would be killed so that we could be free.
4. At Mass we pray, "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us...". Then the priest holds up the consecrated host and wine and says, "Behold the Lamb of God..."
5. Mass is the most special meal we can have because Jesus, the 'Lamb of God', takes away our sins and saves us. We thank him for all he has done for us.



ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Ask the lamb question to at least 5 people.

REFERENCES: Exodus Chapter 12; John 1:29-36. CCC 608, 1365.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, one 'lamb' badge per child, scissors, gum, card paper to back the badges, colours, punch, safety pins.

**I. STARTER:**

- Today we are going to talk about special meals. Close your eyes and try to remember a special meal you had at home. Maybe it was to celebrate Christmas, a Baptism or a birthday. Try and remember what you ate and how you dressed.

*[After a few minutes of silence, play the game, each child naming one dish/food item they had at the meal, while repeating the others. They should try to think of a new item each time. For example:]*

1<sup>st</sup> Child: We had a special meal and had chicken curry.

2<sup>nd</sup> Child: We had a special meal and had chicken curry and cake.

3<sup>rd</sup> Child: We had a special meal and had chicken curry, cake and orange juice.

*[NB. If the number of children is large, they could form smaller circles and play, once they have understood the game.]*

**II. DEVELOPMENT:**

Long ago, God planned a very special meal for his people. He told them what to eat and how to dress. This was at the time of the last plague in Egypt. Do you remember what the last plague was?

*[The first-born of every family died.]*

God told Moses, "Call all the Israelites together and tell them that at last they are going to be free. This is what they have to do:

- Each family must choose a lamb which is good and healthy without any spots or scars. In the evening they must kill it and put some of its blood on the door-posts and lintel of their houses. *[Indicate the frame around the classroom door]*
- Then they must roast the lamb and eat it with bread and herbs. (Herbs are tasty leaves like pudhina or haradhania.)

- They must wear their sandals on their feet and hold sticks in their hands, ready to leave. This meal shall be called the Passover meal, because I will pass over all the houses which have the blood of the lamb, and will not kill their first-born. You must remember this meal forever and ever. Tell your children about it and let them tell their children. Have this meal every year and remember what I did for you, and how I saved your lives.”

The people did exactly what God told them to do. Each family went out to the flocks and chose a spotless lamb. They killed it and collected the blood. Then they put some of the blood on the two doorposts and the lintel of their front doors. They made their rotis and roasted the lamb. Then they got dressed, ready for a journey, with their sandals on their feet and sticks in their hands.

As the meal began, they were all excited and a bit afraid. Moses had told them that this would be their last night in Egypt and then they would be free. They wondered: ‘Will all the first-born really die? And will our families be safe? Will Pharaoh really let us go at last?’

But all that God said really happened. As they sat in their houses eating their dinner, they heard someone shouting and then a sound of wailing. Then from another side, shouting and crying. Everywhere the firstborn were dying. Even up in the palace Pharaoh’s eldest son died.

That very night Pharaoh got up and said, “Enough! I can’t fight this God any more. He is too strong for me. All you Israelites, OUT! Take your families, your flocks and herds and GO!” All the people of Egypt also wanted them to go. They gave the Israelites gold and silver and clothes and said, “Go quickly or we will all be dead!”

So the Israelites left Egypt with their families and animals. There were thousands and thousands of them. Moses led them out of the land of Egypt where they had suffered for so long. What a happy day it was for all of them! It was the day of freedom and the beginning of a great adventure!

[Give out handouts and let the children suggest words to fill in the blanks. Write the words on the board and then let them enter them. They could colour the pictures if they like.]

Words: 1. SPOTLESS LAMB    2. BLOOD, DOORPOSTS, LINTEL    3. ROAST, BREAD, HERBS  
4. SANDALS, STICKS, LEAVE    5. REMEMBER, YEAR    6. PASSOVER.

#### NEXT CLASS:

- At our last class we heard about a lamb. Can anyone tell me anything about it? What kind of lamb was it? What did the people have to do with it? *[The lamb was a healthy, spotless one. The Israelites killed it, roasted and ate it. They put some blood on the two doorposts and the lintel of their houses.]*
- How did the blood of the lamb help the Israelites? *[When God saw the blood, he passed over their houses and did not kill anyone there. The lamb’s blood saved them from dying.]*

Many years later, at the time of Jesus, there lived a holy man called John the Baptist.

- Do you remember how Mary went to help her cousin Elisabeth? What happened when Mary entered the house? *[Elisabeth’s baby jumped inside her, because he realised that God was there.]*

This same baby was named John and was now a grown up man. He used to tell people to turn back to God and be sorry for their sins. He would stand in a river and pour water over the people who wanted to say sorry to God.

One day, when John was doing this, he looked up and saw Jesus walking towards him. He suddenly realised that Jesus was not just an ordinary man. He shouted out in a loud voice, “Behold! (That means ‘Look!’) The Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!”

The people there looked around, but only saw Jesus. “That’s not a lamb, it’s a man!” they said. “Is someone going to kill this man? How can he take away the sins of the world?”

- Let's see if you are smarter than the people there. Was Jesus a lamb or a man? Then why did John call him the Lamb of God? *[Because Jesus was like the spotless Passover lamb who was killed. He was spotless because he had never sinned. And he was going to die on the cross so that all of us could escape death and go to heaven.]*
- Have you ever heard anyone saying 'Behold the Lamb of God'? *[The priest says it at Mass.]*
- 'Behold!' means 'Look!'. Where does the priest want us to look? *[At that time the priest holds up the host and wine, which has now become Jesus. He wants us to look at Jesus and remember that he is the Lamb who died for us.]*
- We also say 'Lamb of God' just before the priest does this. Can anyone remember the prayer we say?  
*[Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us!  
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us!  
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace!]*
- Grant means 'give'.

### III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Close your eyes. Let's remember our dear Lamb of God, Jesus, who died instead of us. Jesus was like the spotless Passover lamb. He had not sinned at all, but he let the people whip him and hurt him and put him on the cross, because he wanted us all to be safe, like the Israelites in their homes. Thank Jesus quietly in your hearts. *[If time permits, sing:]*

Thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus, thank you Lord for loving me. [2]

You went to Calvary, there you died for me, Thank you Lord, for loving me. [2]

### IV. ACTIVITY:

*[Children make their own badges by pasting the lamb picture onto a square of card paper. They punch a hole in the top (optional) and put a pin through. On the back of the badge, they write the answer to the question and the explanation:]*

JESUS.

He was killed instead of us,  
just like the Passover lamb,  
so that we would be saved.

*[As the students work, the teacher could go round and ask them how they would explain the 'Lamb of God' to others. It would be good if they elaborate on the Passover story. After the children have finished their home assignment, ask them to keep the badges in their files.]*

**Home assignment:** Read handout at home. Ask the lamb question to at least 5 people.  
Give the answer if they don't know it and explain.