

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion



Preparation Booklet 3

The Story of Passover

Moses asked Pharaoh many times to set the Israelites free from slavery in Egypt. Pharaoh refused. God sent plagues to punish Egypt. Each time that God sent a plague, Pharaoh promised that he would free the Israelites but Pharaoh did not keep his promises. God sent TEN plagues.

- He turned a river into blood and all the fish died.
- He sent a plague of frogs which covered the land.
- He sent a plague of lice.
- He sent a plague of flies.
- He sent a disease which killed livestock.
- He sent a horrible skin disease.
- He sent a terrible storm.
- He sent a plague of locusts.
- He turned the whole of the country into darkness.



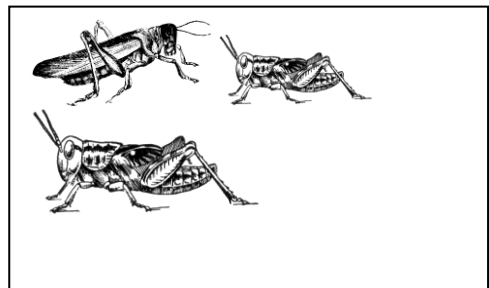
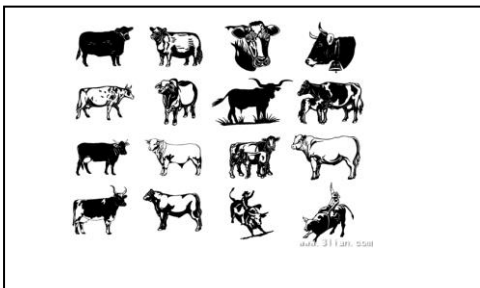
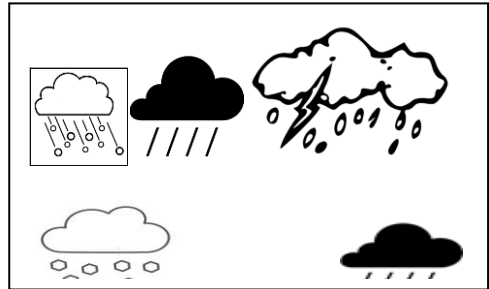
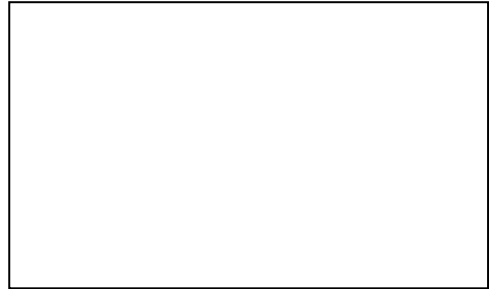
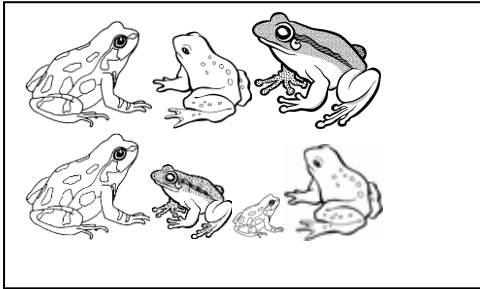
The Lord said to Moses, "Go, tell Pharaoh King of Egypt to let the Israelites go .."

The Final Plague

God told Moses that he would give Pharaoh one more chance to set the Israelites free or he would have the firstborn of every creature killed. Pharaoh refused and all firstborn creatures were killed, including Pharaoh's own son. God told Moses that he would protect the Israelites and gave Moses special instructions. He told Moses that every Israelite family should kill a lamb and paint their door frame with lamb's blood so that the angel of death would see that they were an Israelite household and pass over them. God also told Moses that every Israelite family should eat a meal of roast lamb and unleavened bread and bitter herbs with cloaks wrapped around them, sandals on their feet and a staff in their hands.

The Ten Plagues

Draw or write down which five plagues which are missing.



God Saved the Israelites

1 God told this person to ask Pharaoh
to set the Israelites free.

2 The Israelites were slaves in this
country.

3 Pharaoh refused to free the Israelites.
How many plagues did God send?

4 Israelite families coated their door posts
with the blood of this animal.

5 The _____ of death passed over the
houses who had lamb's blood on their door
posts.

6 The Passover meal includes lamb, bitter
herbs and unleavened _____

BREAD

EGYPT

MOSES

ANGEL

LAMB

TEN

First Holy Communion Preparation Booklet 3

Worksheet 1

The Story of Passover

15 minutes

This worksheet tells the story of the Passover. You could begin by asking the children what religion Jesus was. Where did Jews worship?

Which special customs and traditions did Jesus follow as a Jew? Tell them that Jesus and his family and friends would all have celebrated the Passover meal every year to remember when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

Go through each plague and help the children to understand the devastating effect that the plagues would have had on Egypt.

When talking about the slaying of a lamb to paint the doorposts of the houses, you could tell them that Jesus is called "The Lamb of God" (some may remember hearing these words at Mass) and invite them to consider/discuss/think about how Jesus too, just like the lamb, was killed/sacrificed to save his people (us).

Describe the Passover meal to them:

Lamb (a symbol of the lamb which was killed and whose blood was painted onto the door posts of the Israelite families).

Unleavened bread (this bread could be made quicker than normal bread and it also could be eaten quicker as it was thinner - representing the haste of the Israelites to exit Egypt -they had no time to pack yeast).

Bitter herbs (a symbol of the bitterness of the slavery endured by the Israelites in Egypt).

More points to mention as links to Passover.

-During the Passover meal, blessings were said over the bread and wine.
(Prayers are also said over the gifts during Mass).

God was eager to free his people from slavery and to deliver them to The Promised Land.
(God is eager to free us too from sin and deliver us unto heaven - our promised land).

The Israelite households sacrificed a lamb and this was continued in time at the Passover meal.

(Jesus offers himself as a sacrifice at the Last Supper meal and on the cross and at Mass).

Later, you can refer back to the above when they learn about the Last Supper.

Worksheet 2

The Ten Plagues

15 minutes

A simple activity to revise the plagues which God sent.

Worksheet 3

God Saved the Israelites

15 minutes

A simple "Fill the blanks" task.