

5

Passover Party

Worship
We worship God, whose presence changes us.

POWER TEXT

"And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you" (Deuteronomy 16:11, NIV).

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Chronicles 30
- *Prophets and Kings*, chaps. 23; 28, pp. 288, 291, 335-339
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 133-136
- Student lesson on page 62 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 22, Christian Behavior
- No. 12, The Church
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God's presence in our worship gives us all joy.
- **Feel** joy in worshipping with others.
- **Respond** by praising God for the joy they feel when they worship Him in their church.



God calls us to worship Him joyfully with our church family.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After Hezekiah restores services in the Temple, he invites all the people of Israel to come to Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover together. The king prays for the people and encourages the priests. There is great rejoicing and much singing of praises to God.

This is a lesson about worship.

We can actively participate in our church service. It can be a time of rejoicing and praise to God with our fellow believers.

Teacher Enrichment

The Passover commemorates the release of the Jews from Egyptian bondage. A lamb had been killed for each Jewish family to protect the firstborn from the angel of death. Unleavened bread was eaten because they did not have time to leaven the dough in their haste to leave. This was also a harvest festival during which the firstfruits of the barley were offered.

On the thirteenth of Nisan the father of the household searched the house to make sure that there was no leavened bread in it. Each home in Jerusalem prepared to take in guests. On the fourteenth they purchased lambs and goats to sacrifice in the Temple. The priests burned the fat and offered the blood on the altar before the carcasses were hung up for collection. The people then took them home to roast them on a spit of pomegranate wood. They wore their best clothes, as if ready to leave on a trip. They reclined on couches if possible. This represents the rest that God had given them.

The father of the family then led in reminiscing on the events leading to the exodus from Egypt. He reviewed with them the meaning of the unleavened bread and of the bitter herbs, which represented haste, bitterness, and the work their ancestors had done (Ralph Gower, *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times* [Chicago: Moody Press, 1987], pp. 355-357).

How can I make Sabbath School a time of rejoicing? What is my attitude toward it?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Together* *B. Documentary*	Bibles, paper, pencils, posterboard, markers
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 57. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, decorated offering box
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	pictures of broad smiles OR camera Bibles, paper, pencils Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Thanks for the Joy*	paper, pencils
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Together

As the students arrive, say: **Walk around the room calling out your interests, such as your favorite sport, activity, hobby, program, etc. Keep calling out different interests until you find someone else who's calling out the same thing you're calling out. Then form a group with that person and anyone else who's calling out the same thing. Don't call out something just to form a group—be honest about your interests.**

After students have formed a few groups, challenge them to start the activity over with the goal of forming one big group. Explain that students may have to call out a number of different interests to achieve this goal.

If the entire group finds one common interest, congratulate them. If they are still searching after three minutes, stop the activity.

Debriefing

Ask (if this is the case): **Why was it difficult to find a common interest? What do we all have in common today?** (We're all here at Sabbath School.) **Can we say that we are all here to worship God?** (Don't accept a superficial answer; encourage an honest discussion of their true motives for coming to Sabbath School.) **How are we all experiencing joy when we worship?** Say: **Let's say together our power text, Deuteronomy 16:11:**

"And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you" (Deuteronomy 16:11, NIV).

The power point reminds us that

God calls us to worship Him joyfully with our church family.

(Adapted from *The Truth About Church* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1998], p. 18. Used by permission.)

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ posterboard OR mural paper
- ☐ markers

Documentary

Divide the students into groups of four or five. Say: **You are making a documentary about your church's worship. Interview a number of church members, asking them why we worship together as a church community and what that does for the church community, taking careful note of what they say. Then compile the responses and create a team poster or mural illustrating those points and containing their quotes.**

When students have completed their work, share the various posters with the entire group.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you discover? Why do we worship together as a church community?** Proverbs 22:2; Matthew 18:20; and Acts 1:14 may lend some insight. Say: **Let's say together our power text, Deuteronomy 16:11:**

"And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you" (Deuteronomy 16:11, NIV).

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Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors. Close with a prayer that God will show everyone in your Sabbath School, adults and students alike, a way that He would have them "stand still" in their lives and allow Him to win victories for them.

Suggested Songs

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

"Make a Joyful Noise" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 1)
"I Will Sing" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 6)
"Come and Sing Praises" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 22)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ decorated box

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

Continue to use the decorated offering box to collect the offering.

Say: **I am collecting money for a party. What party? The celebration we have here every week to praise and worship our God. Part of the offerings that are contributed go to pay for what is needed to conduct worship in our home church.**

Prayer

Say: **Often prayer becomes a list of requests for help of all kinds. Because the topic of this week's lesson is coming together in joyful worship and praise, we are going to include in the prayer only things for which we are thankful.** After opening the prayer, give the class members opportunity to mention some of the things for which they are thankful. Thank God for all the blessings that the class has enjoyed over the past week. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

YOU NEED:
- ☐ picture of broad smiles OR camera

Bring to class at least six pictures of people smiling broadly. (Or bring a camera and take pictures of a few persons the class votes as having the broadest smiles.) Place them out in front of the class where all can see them. Ask: **What do these pictures have in common? How do they make you feel? Usually the depiction of happy faces brings cheerful feelings to those who see them. One of the reasons Christians come to worship together is to share the feeling of happiness that comes from praising God. This happiness is infectious in much the same way as seeing others who are happy. As the power point teaches:**

God calls us to worship Him joyfully with our church family.

Experiencing the Story

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Organize the class into groups of three or four. Say: **Each group should read 2 Chronicles 30 and prepare a report of it as though they were the anchor person for a local television news broadcast. Include also the report of a news reporter "on the scene" during the Passover celebration.**

When the groups have completed their assignments, give some of them the opportunity to make their reports as news anchorpersons and on-the-scene reporters to the rest of the class.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

□ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Ask the students to take turns reading aloud from Deuteronomy 16:1-8 and 2 Chronicles 30:13-26. Discuss the similarities and differences between the two Passover passages.

Then say: **Isn't it interesting how the actual Passover celebration of Hezekiah's time seems so much more alive and joyful than just the directions for having a Passover does? People make the difference. The Chronicles passage is about people sincerely trying to cleanse their lives of sin as they presented themselves to God. Notice verse 23. They were having a great time and even extended the celebration another week. What things about this worship sound like something you'd like to experience?** Say: **Let's say together our power text, Deuteronomy 16:11:**

"And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you" (Deuteronomy 16:11, NIV).

Our power point teaches that

God calls us to worship Him joyfully with our church family.

Scenario

Read the following scenario to the students:

As Judy has been spending more time talking with God and reading her Bible, she has begun to experience a joy in her life that she had been missing for so long. She really wants to experience this joy in worshipping with others, not just by herself.

Debriefing

Ask: **How have you found ways to experience this joy in worshipping with others? Would you invite her to your church? Why or why not?**

Let's remember the power point:

God calls us to worship Him joyfully with our church family.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Thanks for the Joy

Have students share how they and their families could get involved actively in worship. Ask: **What are some things that your family could do to be more involved in church programs that have as a purpose worship? Have you been involved yet in any of these forms of worship? How would you describe your experience?**

Say: **If you feel joy from God when you worship Him in your church, write a short song, poem, or letter praising God for that joy. If you haven't felt that joy yet, write a short song, poem, or letter asking God to show you the joy—to help you experience that joy in worshipping Him with others in your church.**

Debriefing

Ask for a couple volunteers to share their creations. Ask: **How do you plan to praise God for the joy? If you don't feel that joy, what can you do to experience joy in worshipping God with others? Let's repeat once again our power point,**

God calls us to worship Him joyfully with our church family.

Accommodation for students with special needs

You may wish to provide an example of a short poem, song, or letter you have created. Otherwise you may model how you would express your praise to God in other creative ways. If certain students require additional help, encourage them to work with a partner who can help them.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Dear God, You are so great and wonderful. We want to give You praise. Please help us to open our hearts to You so that we may experience joy in being with You and others who are worshipping You. Amen.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Habakkuk has a vision. God is always with us.**

Notes

Student lesson

Passover Party

Have you ever attended a weeklong camp meeting? Interesting speakers and meaningful meetings take place. You see old friends, learn new songs, and discover new things about God. Hezekiah invites his kingdom to a sort of camp meeting where a revival among his people takes place.

There's a strange but interesting thing about humans: unless we involve more than one of our senses in remembering an event, we tend to forget it. Can you remember your fourth birthday without the help of pictures? You may remember some of it, but you need the help of pictures, your parents' memories, and maybe even the actual gifts you received to remember it well.

That's how it was with the people of King Hezekiah's time. Their ancestors had all lived through slavery under the pharaoh. For a few years after the Passover angel had spared their firstborn sons' lives and Moses had rescued them, the children of Israel had celebrated the Passover faithfully. But with the Temple having been shut down for many years and the worship of idols becoming so common, they had forgotten the exciting story of the Passover.

King Hezekiah wanted them to remember God's rescue again. It had been a month since the Temple reopened, and everyone was invited to renew their love for God and remember Him; they would use more than one of their senses. They would hear the story, eat special food, light special candles, sing, and visit together during a special weeklong celebration that resembled a camp meeting.

Can you imagine what some of the people must have said when the messengers came to their town? Picture a main city street with people walking here and there in clusters, and donkeys and camels pushing their way through the crowd.

A lone trumpeter lifts his bronze instrument toward the sky and blows a short melody the people recognize as news from the king. Suddenly the crowds stop walking, and the street is hushed. The king's messenger steps up beside the trumpeter and holds up a written parchment that displays the king's seal. He reads from it about the coming Passover feast in Jerusalem. All are invited to worship God in the way their ancestors did.

Some people ask, "What is Passover?" Others say, "Now that you mention it, I do remember my great-grandmother telling me about how special the Passover celebration used to be. Her family celebrated it every year. Let's respond to the king's invitation and go to Jerusalem to see this for ourselves."

On the appointed day a huge crowd of people entered Jerusalem for the Passover. They must have found places to stay in the inns and stables around town. Perhaps townspeople even opened up their homes to some of the guests. Some probably made the traditional roof of woven palm fronds and set up little booths. They all felt so happy to be worshipping God together, as their ancestors had done.

At the end of the week everyone was having such a good time that they didn't want to go home. They extended the gathering for one more week and continued to celebrate God with great joy. In all, the sacrifices and feasts included 2,000 young bulls and 17,000 sheep and goats. The Bible says, "There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 30:26, NIV).

There's a formula for meaningful worship in this story. Have you figured it out? When you worship God with all your heart, give Him your best, and spend time with others praising Him, God's presence fills your heart with joy unspeakable.

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Chronicles 30
- *Prophets and Kings*, chaps. 23; 28, pp. 288, 291, 335-339
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 133-136
- Our Beliefs, nos. 22, 12, 14

POWER TEXT

"And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you" (Deuteronomy 16:11, NIV).

POWER POINT

God calls us to worship Him joyfully with our church family.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 46.

Sunday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 30:1-9 and this week's story, "Passover Party."

THINK Why do you think King Hezekiah sent word throughout the land of Israel to invite everyone to attend the celebration of the Passover?

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, found in Deuteronomy 16:11.

PRAY Thank God for the joy worship can bring.

Monday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 30:10-13.

THINK Think about the different ways in which the people worshipped God in the Passover service.

LIST List five ways you personally can worship God. Each of these acts of worship should involve one of the senses (taste, sight, sound, touch, and smell).

DO Praise God in one of these ways each day this week.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to remind you to praise Him each day.

Tuesday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 30:14-27.

REMEMBER Think back to the best worship service you've ever attended. What made it special?

WRITE Write about that worship service in your Bible study journal.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for memorable worship experiences.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 18:20.

FIND Using a concordance, find three scriptural passages that use the word "worship."

LIST In your Bible study journal, list what you have learned from these passages.

THINK Why is reverence to God a characteristic of true worship? What is acceptable in worship and what is not?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for meaningful worship experiences.

Thursday

READ Read Revelation 5:11-13.

WRITE Select a familiar song or hymn and write new words to fit the tune. Base the words of praise especially on Revelation 5:12.

TALK Talk with your parents about your church's worship service. In what ways can your family become involved in it? How can worship become more meaningful for your family?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for guidance in becoming involved in your church's worship service.

Friday

READ Read Acts 2:42-47.

REFLECT What can you learn from the worship practices of the apostles?

ACT At family worship, act out the Bible story found in 2 Chronicles 30.

THINK What are examples from nature that praise God?

REPEAT Repeat the power text by memory.

PRAY Thank God for the opportunity to express thankfulness and joy to Him in worship.