



PASSOVER AND HOLY WEEK, WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

De Soto Baptist Church



Boys and Girls - Youth and Adults - Do you know the connection between the Jewish holiday of Passover and the Christian celebration of Easter? In our VBS of 2019, ROAR, we learned about Moses and how God helped the Israelites escape from slavery in Egypt.

The Israelites were people who believed in God. God led and protected them, and their story is recorded in the Bible - in the Old Testament. Israelites were also called Hebrews or Jews. Jesus was a Jew, and He was sent to earth by God to show all of us what God was like and to save us all from our sins.

Passover is a very holy celebration for Jewish people. It marks the time well over 3,000 years ago when God chose Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for about 400 years and they were being treated horribly by the Egyptian king or pharaoh.

PLAGUES, PLAGUES, AND MORE PLAGUES!!! God directed Moses to go to the Pharaoh and demand that he release the Israelites and let them go back to their homeland in Israel. The Pharaoh was not about to give up all of these slaves who were building the Pyramids and forced to work day and night. So, God directed Moses to tell Pharaoh that they would have 10 different plagues to force them to release the Jews.

Children - do you remember some of the plagues??? You can read about this in the Book of Exodus chapters 7-12. First Moses caused the Nile River to turn to blood, and all of the fish were killed; then came thousands and thousands of frogs, all over the land; then swarms of flying insects like gnats; then swarms of flies; then a disease caused the cattle and sheep to die; then boils or blisters formed on people; then hail to destroy crops; and swarms of locusts; then three days of darkness.

Through all of this, the Pharaoh would not release the Hebrews. Finally the very worst plague was that the oldest boy of every family would die when the Angel of Death passed over Egypt one night. All of the Hebrews were to sacrifice a lamb that evening and paint blood over the tops of the doors to their houses. Then, the Angel of Death would PASS OVER the homes of the Israelites or Hebrews, and they would be spared.

Finally, the Pharaoh agreed to allow the Hebrews to leave. They left as fast as they could before the Pharaoh changed his mind. The Pharaoh did change his mind and had his soldiers in chariots chasing after them.... all the way to the Red Sea. It was there that God performed the great miracle of parting the sea for the Israelites/Hebrews to cross over.

PASSOVER AND HOLY WEEK, WHAT'S THE CONNECTION? continued

(If you were at our VBS last summer, you may remember how Mrs. Opdycke and Holly arranged for the "sea to part" and you walked through it before it closed again.)

From that time until now, the Jewish people celebrate a full week of Passover to celebrate God's power and goodness in parting the sea and leading them back to their Holy Land. This was the reason Jesus and the Disciples were in Jerusalem that week - to celebrate Passover in their holy city AND to have the Passover Meal together.

Jesus sent some of his disciples ahead to prepare the meal on Thursday evening of Passover. Part of that meal is breaking of unleavened bread (similar to a cracker) and drinking of wine. On this night, Jesus tried to tell them that he would be leaving them. He then broke the bread and said, "This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When he led them in drinking the wine, he said, "This is my blood, shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. Take, drink, in remembrance of me." (Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14: 12-26; Luke 22:14-23).

So, Christians celebrate what we call The Last Supper every year during Holy Week. Sometimes this is called Maundy Thursday. Communion is a very sacred event, remembering Jesus and his sacrifice for us.

Tomorrow is Good Friday, the day that Jesus was crucified and buried.

But, the greatest day of all is on Sunday - - - Resurrection Sunday or Easter - when Jesus rose from the grave - promising us not only forgiveness for all the bad things we have done, but also the promise that we, too, can live forever.

Some Suggested YouTube Recordings:

Maundy Thursday: Come to the Table - Sidewalk Prophets - worship video w/lyrics
Come to the Table - Sidewalk Prophets beanscot

Good Friday-Children: Were You There Rancho Avalancha
To God Be the Glory/Roar VBS/ Group

Good Friday-Adult/Children: How Deep the Father's Love - Fernando Ortega
In Christ Alone - Shadow Mountain
Larnelle Harris - Rise Again (or)
Bill & Gloria Gaither - Rise Again - Dallas Holm

Attached is a pattern for a bracelet that you can make for Easter. You can choose the paper to use and the colors you might want on your bracelet. We think this is a great way to remember all week-end or all day on Sunday that Jesus is alive and is with us every day.

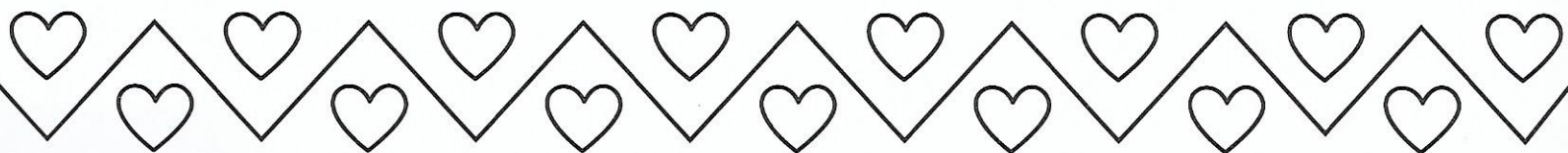
JESUS ♥ JESUS ♥ JESUS ♥ JESUS

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD 

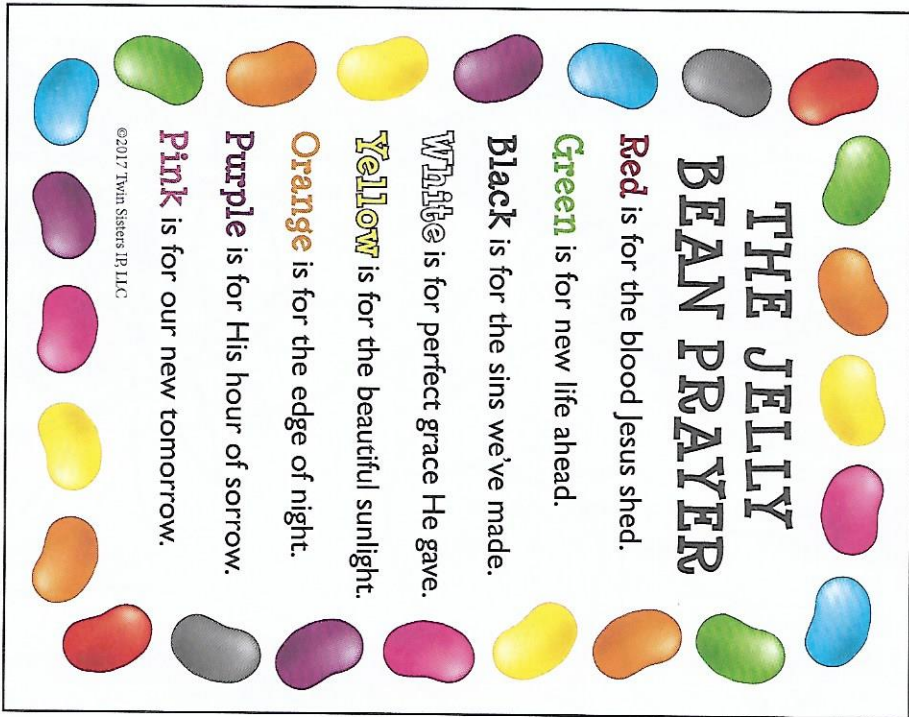
HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN!

HAPPY + EASTER

I'm a FOLLOWER OF CHRIST



The Jelly Bean Prayer Jar



EASTER

The Jelly Bean Prayer Jar

Materials Needed:

- Pattern on page 24
- Scissors
- Mason jar
- Ribbon
- Hole punch
- Jelly beans
- Piece of fabric

Instructions:

- Cut out "The Jelly Bean Prayer" on page 24.
- Hole punch the top left corner.
- Fill the mason jar with jelly beans.
- Cut out a piece of fabric to fit over the top of the mason jar.
- Wrap a ribbon around the top of the mason jar and through "The Jelly Bean Prayer" hole and tie securely.



Helpful Hint: If you don't have any fabric, just use the mason jar lid and tie the ribbon around the top of the lid.

Color Or Make Your Own Easter Wristbands

Materials Needed:

- Pattern on page 20
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Tape or glue
- Markers

Instructions:

- Color patterns on page 20.
- Write "He Is Risen," or other Easter phrases on the blank strip to create your own wristband.
- Cut out the wristbands.
- Wrap around your wrist to determine a comfortable length to fit your wrist.
- Cut any extra material from both sides of the wristband.
- Put around your wrist and ask someone to help tape it closed.

