

Unit 15: God's People Gather Together**Unit Big Question (and Answer):** Why Do God's People Go to Church?

To Worship God and Love One Another!

Unit Bible Verse: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together." Hebrews 10:24-25**Bible Truth 6 Concept: To Worship God and Love One Another... By Remembering Jesus Died to Save Them!**

When God's people gather together, they remember how Jesus died to save them. They do this with a special meal called "the Lord's Supper." It's called this because Jesus shared it with His own special followers on the night before He died on the cross.

There are only two, little pieces of food eaten at the Lord's Supper: a little piece of bread and a little grape juice or wine. That's because it's not really about eating a whole, big meal. It's about remembering what Jesus did for God's people when He died on the cross.

The bread stands for Jesus' body, that He offered up for the sins of God's people. He took in His body, the punishment they deserved from God for their sins. He did this so they would never have to know that punishment themselves.

The grape juice or wine stands for Jesus' blood shed when He died on the cross. Blood was a part of every big, covenant promise. It reminded everyone that this promise must be kept, no matter what. Jesus said the juice/wine was to remind God's people of His blood given to make a new covenant/forever promise with God. It meant that no matter what, His payment for their sins was enough. They would always be forgiven. They would always be God's people, having special closeness with Him now. And one day, living with Him forever.

When God's people take the Lord's Supper, it is a very special time. People are usually very quiet. Many think about the ways they have disobeyed God and ask for His forgiveness. Many thank God for sending Jesus to save them. Jesus told God's people that they were to keep on celebrating this special meal until He comes back at the end of time. Only God's people who repent of their sins, trust in Jesus as their Savior, and are baptized should take the Lord's Supper. We can become God's people, too, when we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 6 Bible Verse: Luke 22:19,20

"This is my body, given for you....This is my blood, which is poured out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Learn a Little: "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**Meaning**

When God's people gather together at church, they remember how Jesus died on the cross to save them. They remember that He let His body be hurt and His blood be spilled out as He suffered and died for their sins. How do they do this? The way Jesus told His disciples to: with a special little meal of bread and wine or grape juice. The bread is eaten as a way to remember how His body was broken on the cross for their sins. The wine or grape juice is drunk as a way to remember that it was His blood that paid for their sins so they could be forgiven by God. God's people have this special meal often, just like Jesus told them to. How thankful they are for Jesus and all He did for them!

We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 6 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being the Savior of Your people, the Church.
- C** God, this special meal reminds us of what Jesus did to save sinners like us. We know that we have all chosen to live life our own way. We have all chosen not to love You or obey Your good ways. We need a Savior! You are our only hope.
- T** God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for His body, given to pay for the sins of all who trust in Him as their Savior. Thank You for His blood, given as the promise that those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus are Your people forever.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people. Use this special meal to remind us of what Jesus has done.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bible Truth 6 Story

The Case of the Remembered Rescue *Exodus 12; Luke 22*

Songs Used in Bible Truth 6

Big Q & A 15 Song

Big Question 15 Song: Why Do God's People Go to Church?

Big Question 15 Bible Verse Song: Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together Hebrews 10:25, NIV 1984

Big Question 15 Hymn: Brethren, We Have Met to Worship, v.1

Big Question 15 Praise Song: Praise the Lord Together

Bible Truth 6 Bible Verse: This Is My Body Luke 22:19,20, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 6 Extra Bible Verse: He Took Bread Luke 22:19,20, NIV 1984

listen to or download songs for free at <https://praisefactory.org>: Deep Down Detectives Music page

The Case of the Remembered Rescue

Exodus 12; Luke 22: Isaiah 25:7-9



Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and prepare storyboard figures/Story Scenes, if using. (In Visual Aids book)
3. Practice telling story with the storyboard figures/Story Scenes, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story.
2. Put up storyboard figures/add story action cues/hold up Story Scenes as you tell the story. Allow the children to help you put them on the board, if desired.
3. Include the children in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
4. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

“Our story is called: The Case of the Remembered Rescue. Here is your listening assignment.” Read from Detective Dan’s Listening Assignment signs, but questions are summarized below:

Detective Dan’s Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to know:

- 1. What rescue did Jesus and his disciples remember on the night before Jesus died?**
- 2. What even bigger rescue do Jesus is followers remember now?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is Luke 22:19,20

“This is my body, given for you...This is my blood, which is poured out for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

I need to know:

- 1. Who gave His body and blood to save God’s people from their sins?**
- 2. What special meal do God’s people eat to remember what He did?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.

They are: a lamb, a book, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, the cross, a little meal, and a life preserver.

Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to know:

- 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don’t?**
- 2. What do God’s people thank Jesus for as they take eat the bread and the wine during the Lord’s Supper? What day do they look forward to as they eat it?**

Read the assignment questions, THEN SAY,

“Ok, Deep Down Detectives! Put on your best listening ears and see if you can hear the answers to Detective Dan’s questions. When I finish telling the story, we will see if we can answer all the questions.”

Read the Bible Truth story, answer questions, present the gospel and lead in prayer.

Answers to questions; the gospel; and, ACTS prayer are included with the story text.

The Case of the The Case of the Remembered Rescue *Exodus 12; Luke 22; Isaiah 25:6-9*

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

Every year, the people of Israel gathered together to remember how God rescued them from their strong enemies, the Egyptians. The Egyptians had made the people of Israel their slaves. They were so mean to them! They made the people of Israel work terribly hard and didn't pay them. They hurt them when they didn't work hard enough, and they planned to never let them go.

The people of Israel cried out to God, "Help us, help us! Save us from these strong enemies!" Would the LORD hear them? Would He help them?

What do you think?

Yes, He would! The LORD heard them, and He sent Moses to help them. Through Moses, the LORD did many amazing things to show the Egyptians that He was the one, true God. The LORD would make the Egyptians free the people of Israel.

On the night before the people of Israel were to be freed, the LORD gave them special instructions through Moses: "I'm going to send a terrible punishment into Egypt tonight," says the LORD. "After this terrible punishment, the Egyptians will free you."

"But there is something you must do, if the terrible punishment is not to come upon you, too," the LORD told them. "Each family must take the blood of a lamb and put it along the top and sides of the door to your home," the LORD said. "If you do this, I promise the terrible punishment will pass over you and you will be saved. Only your enemies, the Egyptians, will be punished," the LORD told them through Moses.

"After the terrible punishment comes to the Egyptians, it will be time for you to go," the LORD said. "Hurry, get everything ready now. You'll be leaving early in the morning. Don't even wait for your bread to get puffy and rise. There's no time. Bake it and eat it flat, so you'll be ready to go," they were told. "Tonight, is your last night in Egypt," the LORD said. "Celebrate! Eat the lamb whose blood you put on your doors and eat the flat bread at dinner tonight. Do this to remember what I'm doing for you."

Their last night in Egypt!?! Could this really be true? The king of Egypt had promised to let them go before, but changed his mind every time. Would the king really let them go now? Would the people of Israel believe the LORD's promise and obey Him?

What do you think?

Yes, they would! The people of Israel did everything the LORD told them to do. They put lamb's blood on the tops and sides of their doors. They packed up their things. They didn't wait for their bread to get puffy, like they usually did, but baked it flat. And that night, they ate the lamb and the flat bread to remember what the LORD was doing for them.

Late that night, the terrible punishment came, just as the LORD said. It came upon every single Egyptian family, because there was no lamb's blood around their doors. But the punishment passed over the people of Israel. The LORD had kept His promise and spared them this punishment, thanks to the blood of the lamb.

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

"Boo Hoo! Boo Hoo!" cried the Egyptians. **"How terrible is the LORD's punishment on us! We don't want the people of Israel to stay here and work for us anymore! Go away, people of Israel! Leave our country!"** they exclaimed.

"Yay! Yay!" shouted the people of Israel. **"Praise the LORD! He has freed us!"** They gathered up their belongings and walked out of Egypt. They were so glad to be leaving their enemies!

What a great day this was for the people of Israel. The LORD had rescued them with such powerful signs and wonders. **"Remember this Passover night! Remember this day when I rescued you and freed you from your enemies!"** the LORD told the people through Moses.

"Once a year, I want you to eat a special meal to remember," He told them. **"Drink red wine (juice of grapes) and remember how My punishment passed over you. I kept the promise I made to you through the lamb's blood,"** the LORD said. **"Eat flat bread and remember how quickly you had to leave when I freed you from the Egyptians. Celebrate the Passover every year, so you won't forget the great things I did to save you from your enemies,"** the LORD told them.

So, for hundreds of years, all the way down to Jesus' day, the people of Israel kept on remembering the Passover with the special, red wine (juice from grapes) and the very flat bread. They had so much to celebrate! After all, what greater enemy than the Egyptians would they ever face? And, what greater punishment would they need to be rescued from than the terrible punishment the Egyptians received that Passover night?

What do you think? Could there be a greater enemy or a greater thing the LORD could do for His people?

Well, the truth is, there WAS a greater enemy, and a bigger punishment they needed to be rescued from. The enemy was sin. And the punishment was death —being separated from God and all His goodness forever. And this enemy and this punishment weren't just trouble for the people of Egypt or the people of Israel. These were trouble for the whole world. For you see, we all are sinners who have disobeyed God and we all deserve the LORD's punishment for our sins.

Yes, the sin in our hearts is a far stronger enemy than those Egyptians ever were! But who could rescue people from this kind of enemy? Who could save us from God's punishment? Would the blood of an ordinary lamb be enough, like it was for the Passover?

What do you think?

No, the blood of that kind of lamb would never be enough! But there WAS blood that WAS enough. The blood of God's perfect Son. Do you know His name?

Can you tell me?

It's Jesus!

John the Baptist gave Jesus a special nickname: the Lamb of God. John knew Jesus had come to save God's people. Jesus would live a perfect life, then give it as the full payment for the sins of God's people. Jesus would take away their sins by taking their punishment. Oh, how God loves His people, that He would give His only Son do to this!

Jesus told His disciples He would die for God's people, but they didn't understand. At last, came the night when Jesus would be led away to die. It was the Passover, so He and His disciples gathered together to eat the special meal and remember how God rescued the people of Israel from the Egyptians. Only this time, Jesus used the wine and the flat bread to tell about the even GREATER rescue God was about to do for ALL of God's people.

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

Jesus took the flat bread, and said, "This Passover flat bread helped you remember God's rescue of Israel long ago. Now, eat it to remember something new," Jesus told His disciples. "This is My body broken for you. Tomorrow, I will give My body as the perfect sacrifice for you and all of God's people when I suffer and die on the cross. Take it and eat it; and, remember Me when you do!"

Then, Jesus picked up the cup of red wine, and said, "This Passover wine helped you remember the lamb's blood God used, so His punishment would pass over Israel. Now, drink it to remember something new," Jesus told them. "This is My blood poured out for you. Tomorrow, I will pay for the sins of God's people with My blood when I die on the cross," Jesus said. "Take it and drink it; and, remember Me when you do."

"Because of Me, God is making a new, big covenant promise with His people. They will be forgiven their sins forever. And on the Last Day, when God gives out His punishment for sins, He will pass over His people --all those who have turned away from disobeying God and have trusted in Me as their Savior. They won't be punished because I will have already taken God's punishment for them on the cross," Jesus explained.

"After I'm gone, eat this little meal when you gather together with God's people. Use it to remember what I've done for you. Keep on eating it regularly until the day I come back as King, and put an end to sin and death forever," Jesus told them.

The disciples were sad and surprised by Jesus' words. Would He really die as He said He would?

What do you think?

Yes, He would!

Would! Later that night, soldiers came and took Jesus away. The next day, Jesus was nailed to a cross; and there, He suffered and died for the sins of God's people, just as He said He would. He was buried in a cave-grave by friends.

But Jesus wouldn't stay there! On Day One, Two, Three, Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus had really paid for the sins of God's people. He had beaten sin and death for them!

Jesus' disciples were so happy! They spread the wonderful news to everyone: "Come, repent and believe in Jesus. Because of Him, your sins can be forgiven, and you can become God's people!" they exclaimed.

And as they told the good news of Jesus, many people turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. God was growing His Church! The believers gathered together to worship God and love one another. And when they gathered, they ate the special meal of flat bread and red wine. They called it "the Lord's Supper"; and through it, they remembered how Jesus gave His life that God's punishment would pass over them.

Even today, God's people still gather together to worship God and love one another. And they STILL take the Lord's Supper together. They eat the flat bread and drink the red wine (or grape juice) and remember what Jesus did for them when He suffered and died on the cross. And they will keep on eating and drinking this special meal until Jesus comes back when His plans for this world are finished.

Then, at last, this meal will never be eaten again. Instead, God's people will have a NEW meal, called the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. The food will be the best food anyone has ever tasted! The drink will be rich and delicious, too. And it will be the biggest and best party EVER, to celebrate the best day EVER: the day when God's people will be joined with Jesus, all together, face-to-face, forever! Sin, sadness, and death will be gone. Sin, sadness, and death will be gone. And God's people will go on enjoying the Perfect Wonderfulness of God forever. Forever happy. Forever together. Forever praising God.

Cracking the Case: (story wrap-up for Listening Assignments)

It's time to see how we did with our Listening Assignment.

Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to know:

- 1. What rescue did Jesus and his disciples remember on the night before Jesus died?** How God rescued the people of Israel from being slaves in Egypt.
- 2. What even bigger rescue did Jesus give them to remember from that night on?** How He would rescue God's people from their sins when He suffered and died on the cross in their place.

For You and Me:

Even today God's people continue to remember how Jesus saved them from their sins when He died on the cross for them. Even today, they still eat the special little meal He first ate with His disciples on the night before He died. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus is our Savior, then one day we will also get to share in this special meal and remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Luke 22:19,20**

"This is my body, given for you...This is my blood, which is poured out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

I need to know:

- 1. Who gave His body and blood to save God's people from their sins?** Jesus did, when He suffered and died on the cross.
- 2. What special meal do God's people eat to remember what He did?** The Lord's Supper—a little meal of bread and grape juice/wine.

For You and Me:

Even today God's people continue to remember how Jesus saved them from their sins when He died on the cross for them. Even today, they still eat the special little meal He first ate with His disciples on the night before He died. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus is our Savior, then one day we will also get to share in this special meal and remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They were: a lamb, a book, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, the cross, a little meal, and a life preserver. *Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.*

I need to know:

- 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't?** The lamb, Pharaoh, the cross and the little meal belong. The book and the life preserver do not.
- 2. What do God's people thank Jesus for as they take eat the bread and the wine during the Lord's Supper? What day do they look forward to as they eat it?** They thank Jesus for suffering and dying in their place, so that they could be forgiven of their sins and could become God's people. They look forward to the day when Jesus will come back and bring an end to sin and death forever. Then, they will live with Him, happy forever. What a celebration that will be!

For You and Me:

Even today God's people continue to remember how Jesus saved them from their sins when He died on the cross for them. Even today, they still eat the special little meal He first ate with His disciples on the night before He died. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus is our Savior, then one day we will also get to share in this special meal and remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****Why Do God's People Go to Church?****To Worship God and Love One Another...****By Remembering Jesus Died to Save Them!**

Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another... by remembering Jesus died to save them!

Jesus told His people to take the Lord's Supper (that's what we call this special meal) to keep remembering how He gave up His body to save them. As they eat the little piece of bread and drink the juice/wine, they are grateful to God helping them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They are grateful that Jesus would die to pay for their sins.

One day, if you turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior, you will join God's people in remembering how Jesus died to save you by eating this special meal. What a great day that will be!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being the Savior of Your people, the Church.
- C** God, this special meal reminds us of what Jesus did to save sinners like us. We know that we have all chosen to live life our own way. We have all chosen not to love You or obey Your good ways. We need a Savior! You are our only hope.
- T** God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for His body, given to pay for the sins of all who trust in Him as their Savior. Thank You for His blood, given as the promise that those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus are Your people forever.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people. Use this special meal to remind us of what Jesus has done.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Go to Lesson Plan, p.9 for the script to the rest of the lesson.