

LESSON 4



CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

APRIL 22 2023

apply the blood!

Scripture Story: Exodus 5-11; 12:1-32.

Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets* (or *Beginning of the End*), chapters 23 and 24.

PREPARING TO TEACH

I. SYNOPSIS

The story of the Passover is a revelation of the plan of salvation acted out in symbols. It speaks to such topics as righteousness by faith and the blood of the Lamb. These two concepts form the basis for this week's lesson. From the story and this lesson it is anticipated that the students will:

1. Graciously acknowledge the cost of the blood, that is, Christ's life.
2. Understand that the blood becomes valuable to them only when, through obedience and loving acceptance, it is personally applied to their lives.
3. Know what the application of the blood to their lives will do, (i.e., cleanse, forgive, and restore).

These three ideas will be illustrated from within the story by the sacrifice of the lamb, the necessity of the application of the blood, and God's resulting action upon the demonstration of the blood on the doors. In this lesson it is possible to overstress the importance of the application of the blood. Although it is very necessary, please do not forget to emphasize the grace and love of God in His giving of the blood.

II. TARGET

The students will:

- Realize what the blood of the Lamb will do in their lives. (*Know*)
- Experience gratitude toward God for His giving of His blood. (*Feel*)
- React by applying the blood of the Lamb to their lives. (*Respond*)

III. EXPLORE

The Great Controversy, Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, No. 8

"All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God's adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the global flood, as presented in the historical account of Genesis 1-11. Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation" (Gen. 3; 6-8; Job 1:6-12; Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-18; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:4; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:6; Rev. 12:4-9).

TEACHING

I. GETTING STARTED

Activity

Refer the students to the What Do You Think? section of their lesson. After they have completed it,

discuss their responses.

The first two situations are designed to frustrate the young people. Hopefully, they will come to the realization that to possess anything without it being able to be used is useless. Make the connection between receiving useless gifts and ones that actually work, and use the third situation to illustrate the necessity of receiving and applying Christ's blood in their lives.

Illustration

Share this illustration in your own words:

This is the story of Chris, Norman, and Busiswe, three theology students from Helderberg College, South Africa, who went on a theology campout in 2003. The theology campout was to be held up on the west coast of South Africa, about 80 kilometers south of Elands Bay.

Elands Bay just happens to be one of the best surfing spots in the world. So when all the other theology students were packing Bibles and sleeping bags, Chris, an avid surfer, was packing and hiding his surfboard. On Sunday morning, when all the students were being led by a teacher in a devotional in the same hall where everyone also slept at night, Chris, Norman, and Busiswe decided it was time to make a run for it.

Norman and Busi sneaked out of the meeting and went and waited in Busi's car with the engine running, while Chris had to sneak his board out from under his bed. Unfortunately, Chris wasn't very sneaky, and the remaining 30 students saw Chris running for the door with a surfboard that had magically appeared under his arm. Chris jumped into the waiting car, and the trio sped off down the road.

About 50 meters down the road it dawned on them that they didn't exactly know how to get to this amazing surf break. So they continued in the direction they had chosen until they came upon a petrol station. They inquired of the attendant, who gave them directions, but the attendant didn't seem so sure of himself. With directions in hand and their spirits lifted, they drove in what they thought was the right direction, Chris at the wheel speeding as he eagerly anticipated surfing.

Things slowed down when the road they were on turned into gravel, and gradually got worse and worse, making the BMW they were in bounce and shake in a way BMW's are not meant to. They had to make a decision whether or not it would be worth continuing on their way. So they decided they would check the surf. If it was flat, it wouldn't be worth continuing the journey.

How do you check the surf on the coast of South Africa when you are on a dirt road in the middle of nowhere? Well, Norman's cousin was a surfer who lived back in Cape Town, so he gave him a call. Norman's cousin referred him to about three other people, and after half an hour of phone calls they still had no idea if there was even going to be salt water at Elands. Sadly they turned back. Two hours later they finally returned to the camp and the scorn of their teachers just as lunch was finishing. As they were getting out of the car, Norman reached under his seat to get his wallet and pulled out a book. It was a book Chris had purchased a month or two before. It was entitled *Top Surf Spots in South Africa*. They opened up to the page on Elands Bay. There was a nice map with directions on how to get there that didn't involve a dirt road. And there was also a phone number to ring for a report on what the surf was doing!

They were very annoyed with themselves. If they had only realized that they had a book filled with everything they needed to know, it would have changed everything!

II. TEACHING THE STORY

Bridge to the Story

Share the following in your own words:

The three people in the story above would have benefited a lot if they had known about the map and used it! In the same way, the Israelites benefited, in fact were saved, because they were told about the blood of the lamb, and they used it! As you read the story about the Passover, think about what you know about the blood of Christ shed for you, and what it can do for your salvation.

Out of the Story for Teachers

After you read the Into the Story section with your students, use the following in your own words to process it with them.

- What do you think it means to apply the blood of Christ to your door?
- What does the blood of Christ do? (See *Punch Lines* for texts concerning this.)
- How do you think it would have felt to sacrifice a perfect little lamb that had been living with you?
- How would you feel if you killed the lamb, then did not apply its blood?

- Even though the plague had not yet come, God’s people were to follow the directions God gave them—they obeyed by faith. In what ways does God instruct you to obey by faith?
- What would it look like today for God to lead you or me out of captivity and into the Promised Land?
- In the story the Israelites are told to eat the Passover with their clothes and shoes on, ready to leave. Why do you think God instructed them to do this, and how does that apply to our rescue from slavery to sin today?
- In the story it says: “Then the people bowed down and worshiped” (Exodus 12:27, NIV). Why did they do this? They had received only a promise; nothing had happened yet! Have you ever bowed low and worshipped God for something He has promised you? If not, why not?
- This story also instructs the people to tell their children why they keep the feast when the children ask. The answer they are to give is that they keep it because God freed them from slavery in Egypt. Have you ever asked anyone why they keep the ordinances of humility and the Lord’s Supper—the continuation of the Passover? (See the *Did You Know?* section.) What did they tell you?

Sharing Context and Background

Use the following information to shed more light on the story for your students. Share it in your own words.

The story of the institution of the Passover feast



Tips for Top-Notch Teaching

Agree or Disagree

Sometimes it may be useful to ask the students whether they agree or disagree with a statement. This is just a simple exercise that will involve the student in the following conversation as they wish to discover what others thought. But when conducting this activity you must be cautious about requesting the students to make a public display of their opinion, in case they open themselves to ridicule. In many cases it would be enough to ask them the question without requesting a public demonstration of their answer. Here is a simple activity that relates to this lesson.

Agree or disagree—

1. To be rich you need only to have a lot of money in your bank account.
2. To be truly rich you need to spend what you have in your bank account.

provides us with deep spiritual insight into the nature of salvation. Consider the following points:

1. The blood that saves comes only from the sacrificed lamb.

The lamb’s blood on the doorposts in the story of the Passover is all that is required for the salvation of the Israelites. What must be understood is that there are no saving merits

Teaching From . . .

Refer your students to the other sections of their lesson. Invite students to share the key text with the class if they have committed it to memory.

- **Key Text**

Invite the students to share the Key Text with the class if they have committed it to memory.

- **Flashlight**

Read the Flashlight statement, pointing out that most of the time it is from the commentary on this week’s story found in the book *Patriarchs and Prophets*. Ask what relationship they see between the statement and what they have just discussed from *Out of the Story*.

- **Punch Lines**

Point out to your students the verses listed in their lesson that relate to this week’s story. Have them share the verse that spoke most directly to them and allow them to explain why they chose it.

- **Further Insight**

Ask them how the quote in Further Insight conveys the point of the story in this lesson.

in the doorpost, or in the house, but only in the blood of the lamb. This teaches us the absolute necessity of receiving Christ's blood for our salvation.

2. The saving blood must be applied to our lives.

Once the lamb has been slain, we must act in faith and obey God's directions about how we receive the saving grace of the blood. Once again, this is not to increase our merit. But simply to receive the benefits we must accept the gift.

3. The blood does something in our lives.

The blood, once received into our lives, forgives, cleanses, and restores. See the *Punch Lines* for the biblical texts concerning this. It is only because God graciously gave us the blood that we have the ability to let it forgive, clean, and restore us.

Other Notes of Interest

Exodus 12:11—Passover

"The English translation 'Passover' does not do justice to the Hebrew terminology (*pesah*). That the verb has to do with protection can be seen in Isaiah 31:5, where it is parallel to shielding and delivering. The Lord is not portrayed as 'passing over' the door but as protecting the entrance from the slaughtering angel (see 12:23). The blood on the doorposts and lintel can now be seen as purifying the doorway in preparation for the Lord's presence."

Exodus 12:12-30—The Tenth Plague

"Egyptian kingship festival. There may be some echo here of the famous Egyptian Sed festival, which represented a renewal of royal authority. Its celebration was intended for all the gods to affirm the kingship of Pharaoh, while here, as a result of the plagues, all the gods must acknowledge the kingship of Yahweh—not a new enthronement, but a recognition of His ongoing power. In the Sed festival the king asserted his dominance of the land by going throughout the land (symbolically) as he desired. Pharaoh's kingship is being mocked even as Yahweh's is being asserted,

for God goes throughout the land to establish His dominance by the plague."

Bible Background Commentary; © 2000 by John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, and Mark W. Chavalas. Database © 2006 WORDsearch Corp.

III. CLOSING

Activity

Close with an activity and debrief it in your own words.

This story has three basic insights into salvation from which we can learn. These are the cost of the blood, what needs to happen to the blood, and what the blood does for those who apply it to their doors. For the closing activity, separate your class into three groups. In these three groups they will write a prayer in the form of a letter.

- The first group should write a letter to God to thank Him for giving His own blood for our salvation.
- The second group should write a letter accepting the blood of Christ in humility and repentance.
- The third group should write a letter asking and thanking God for what His blood can and will do in their lives. (To see what the blood of Christ can do in your life, see the *Punch Lines*.)

Once this activity is finished, combine the letters and read the prayer. If possible, make copies of this prayer and distribute them for the class.

Summary

Share the following thoughts in your own words:

- God gave His blood in love and grace.
- We must apply His blood to our lives in thankfulness and repentance, because it will forgive, clean, and restore us.
- Receiving the blood of Christ will in turn make us more grace-filled people.



Remind the students about the reading plan that will take them through the inspired commentary of the Bible, the Conflict of the Ages series. The reading that goes with this lesson is *Patriarchs and Prophets* (or *Beginning of the End*), chapters 23 and 24.



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STUDENT LESSON

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apply the blood!



Photo by Alden Ho

flashlight

“Before obtaining freedom, the bondmen must show their faith in the great deliverance about to be accomplished. The token of blood must be placed upon their houses. . . . Had the Israelites disregarded in any particular the directions given them . . . they would not have been secure. . . . By obedience the people were to give evidence of their faith. So all who hope to be saved by the merits of the blood of Christ should realize that they themselves have something to do in securing their salvation. . . . Man is to be saved by faith, not by works; yet his faith must be shown by his works. . . . He must appreciate and use the helps that God has provided” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 278, 279).

keytext

“Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. . . . The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”

(Exodus 12:7, 13, NIV)

what do you think?

Of the following items, which would you prefer and why?

___ To have money in your bank account but not have access to it.

___ To have a car without the keys to start it or a license to drive it.

___ To have the Holy Spirit in your life so you can be a light to those in darkness.

did you know?

1. Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem four days before the lamb was killed in the temple as the Passover sacrifice for the sins of the people of Israel. Four days before the lamb was to be sacrificed, it was chosen. Therefore, Jesus entered Jerusalem on lamb selection day as the Lamb of God.

2. Friday was the day of the Passover celebration and the day that the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed. Every year for the previous 1,200 years, a priest blew the shofar (ram's horn) at 3:00 p.m.—the moment the lamb was sacrificed, and all the people would pause to contemplate the sacrifice for sins on behalf of the people of Israel. On Friday at about 3:00, when Jesus was being crucified, He said, "It is finished."

3. The bones of the Passover lamb weren't to be broken, and the Gospel writer John makes it clear that Christ's bones were not broken either (John 19:33).

INTO THE STORY

"The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 'This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat.

"The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the

blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. . . . This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

"On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals. . . . The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.' "

"Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of your house until morning. When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

"Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. And when your children ask you, "What does this ceremony mean to you?" then tell them, "It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.' Then the people bowed down and worshiped. The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron."

(Exodus 12:1-6, 11-13, 21-28, NIV)

OUT OF THE STORY

What parts of the story are key? (*Underline* them.)

What aspects or details of the story are new to you? (Place an *arrow* beside them.)

What words or phrases capture the various emotions of this story most? (*Circle* them.)

What is the significance of blood? (See Genesis 9:4–6.)

Why do you think the instruction to apply the blood is given so carefully?

What emerges as the central lesson of this story? In other words, why do you think it is included in the record of Scripture?

What other lessons can be gained from it?

If you were to capture this story in five words or less, what would you say?

punch lines

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (**Matthew 26:28, NIV**).

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!” (**Romans 5:8, 9, NIV**).

“Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (**1 Corinthians 5:7, 8, NIV**).

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin” (**1 John 1:7, NIV**).

“And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore” (**Hebrews 13:12, 13, NIV**).

“Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood” (**Revelation 1:5, NIV**).

further insight

“In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the principle of action.”—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 59.

connectingtolife

Sabbath

Read Matthew 26:28.

In the *What Do You Think?* section you were asked to choose between having lots of something useless, or lots of something else that was equally as useless. Did it frustrate you? Did you think about how useless it would be to have any of those things but not be able to use them?

For something to be meaningful to you, you must be able to use it. The Israelites had to do something with the blood of the slain lamb to make it useful; they had to apply the blood to their door. What would have been the point of sacrificing the lamb without applying the blood to the door? It would have been useless.

In the same way, today, what is the point of knowing about God's grace, which has redeemed us through Jesus' blood and provides us the power to follow Him, if we don't let it affect our lives? Think of ways in which you can be affected by God's grace and power. It may be by accepting God's forgiveness, or by showing grace to someone you know.

Sunday

Read Revelation 1:5.

Read the story of Moses in the *Into the Story* section. Work through the study questions in *Out of the Story*. After that, *circle in red* all the parts of the story in which you can see symbols of Christ.

Also, on the following lines, write what you think this story can teach you about your salvation and the way in which Christ's blood works for you. Don't forget where the blood had to come from and what it cost!

Monday

Read Revelation 3:20.

The *Key Text* this week is filled with many symbols; one of the most interesting is the way in which the blood is to be applied to the door of the house. What do you think this door means? From today's reading consider what a door does, how it allows access. There it talks about each person having to open their door to the Lord. What, then, do you think it means to have the blood of the Lamb on your door? What changed for the Israelites when they had the blood of the lamb on their door? How do you think it makes a difference if you apply or don't apply the blood to your door? Another symbol in the *Key Text* is that of the blood. Look through the *Punch Lines* for texts about what the blood does for those who have it on their door.

Tuesday

Read Romans 5:8, 9.

In the *Flashlight* section Ellen White reminds us that for the blood to do anything for us we must do with it what we have been told to do! The quote is really quite understandable. What is your reaction to it? When you consider that it was God's love that gave you His own blood in such a gracious way, how does that make you feel? Remember, God won't ask you to do anything He hasn't first done for you, that He doesn't know is best for you, or that He can't help you do.

How do you see yourself applying the blood to your doorposts?

Wednesday

The *Punch Lines* for this week are all about the blood of Christ. In these verses there are different things that the blood does for us. *Circle* all the action words. Thank God in prayer for the way the blood works in your life. Thank Him for the grace He makes available to you.

Thursday

Read 1 John 1:7.

Eden Ahbez, an American songwriter, once said: "The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return." Christ gave His blood as a loving sacrifice for you to use, and all He desires is that you will love in return, both Him and everyone here on earth. To apply the blood of Christ to your door means to be loved and love in return. Today, how will you love? Whom will you love? And why will you love?

Friday

Read 1 Corinthians 5:7, 8.

God has made full provision for us to be saved; we are headed for heaven when we turn to Him, take His provision, and start moving in that direction. In this week's lesson we have been looking at the blood God has graciously provided us for our salvation—the blood forgives, cleans, and restores. It is only by His blood that we are saved, but by His grace He has provided us His Word, and the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter.

Talk with a parent, teacher, or friend and ask them what they appreciate most about the gifts God has given them for salvation.

this week's reading*

Patriarchs and Prophets (or *Beginning of the End*), chapters 23 and 24.

**Beginning of the End* is a special adaptation of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URLhF1rB09s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages series each year.