

# FAMILY FAITH

## Chapter 6: The Passover

*Through the Passover, God led His people to freedom.*

### Chapter Summary

Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob received the birthright from God. God changed Jacob's name to Israel. Therefore, God's Chosen People became known as the Israelites. The Israelite people traveled to Egypt because of a famine; they lived in slavery in Egypt for four hundred years. God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go, so God sent ten plagues upon Egypt. Finally, because of the plague of the death of the firstborn, Pharaoh let the people go. The Israelites were saved from the death of the firstborn through the sacrifice of the Passover lamb. The Israelites were then saved again from the pursuing Egyptians when God opened the Red Sea. The Israelites passed on dry land, while the Egyptians were destroyed.

### More for Parents

The Passover story encourages parents to inspire their children to obedience and trust in God. God instructs the Israelites with specific tasks to avoid the final plague and to gain freedom from slavery. The families who listened to the Word of God and obeyed His commands were led to freedom. The mission of these parents coincides with our mission today. As parents, we long for the success, happiness, and freedom of our children. However, we remember that what really matters is that we model for our children faith-filled obedience to God and His words. This is the promise we make when our children are baptized—to raise them up to the best of our ability in the ways of the faith.

### Virtue in the Family

The Passover is a demonstration of God's power and His faithfulness to the promises He made to His

people. The Israelites remembered and celebrated this sacred night by sharing in the same meal instituted by God. This Passover meal is fulfilled in the Last Supper and ultimately in the Holy Eucharist, which is the new Passover.

### The Family Meal

- Prayer activity
  - Gather together in silence, maybe even in front of a lit candle and a crucifix.
    - Imagine being an Israelite family on the evening of Passover.
    - Ask God to show you things in your life that keep you from experiencing freedom and complete faithfulness to Him.
    - Give thanks together as a family for one or two blessings that God has given you to help you remain faithful to Him (these may include things like Mass, the sacraments, the Bible, our priests and religious, and the example of family/friends/teachers).
- Eat dinner together as a family every night, saying grace before the meal and the blessing afterward. See page 335 of the Student Text for the blessings before and after meals. During dinner, share stories of the past, reflections of the day, and plans for the future, just as the Israelites did on that evening of Passover.

### Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **Passover**
- **plagues**

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