

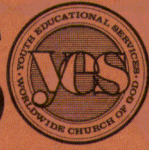
YOUTH



LEVEL 1

BIBLE

LESSONS



SPECIAL FEAST
LESSON



The Spring Feasts

SPRING FESTIVAL
EDITION

THE SPRING FEASTS

God wants everyone who has ever lived to become members of His Family. This is His wonderful purpose for creating human beings.

God also has a plan which shows how we may come into His Family. The feast days we keep each year picture God's great plan for mankind.

This lesson will explain the meaning of the spring festivals. They are the Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. These festivals picture the first three steps in God's plan.

THE PASSOVER

Thousands of years ago, the Israelite people were **slaves** in Egypt. They spent many long years of suffering from hard work, until God chose a man named Moses to free them.

God told Moses to go to the Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and ask him to let the Israelites go free. Each time Moses asked, Pharaoh said, "No!" God would then send a terrible **plague** on the people of Egypt. This happened nine times. But one more plague was to come. Let's look at the last plague, because it has much to do with the first Passover and Pharaoh's freeing of the Israelites (Exodus 11 and 12 tell us about it).

Parents: Explain the words in **boldface**. Explain "slaves" so your child will understand why the Israelites wanted to be free. Also explain "plague," and review the other plagues the Egyptians suffered.

The tenth and last plague God sent was the death of the firstborn in the land of Egypt. This included the death of the firstborn animals as well as the people. If you are the oldest child in your family, you are the firstborn.

God told the Israelites that on the night of the Passover they were to roast a healthy male lamb and eat it with their families. They were to eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They were told to take some of the blood of the lamb and smear it on the doorposts of their houses. God's angel would see the blood and **pass over** their houses, sparing their firstborn from death. Then they were also told to eat flat or unleavened bread for seven days.

God commanded that the Passover be kept every year from that time forward. When Christ came to this earth, He changed the way it was to be kept.

Today, on Passover night your parents attend a special church service. They wash the feet of other members, which shows a humble and serving attitude. Then they eat a piece of unleavened bread. The bread is a reminder that Christ's body was horribly beaten before He died so that we could be healed when we are sick. Your parents then drink a glass of wine which pictures the blood that poured out of Christ's body. He died so that we could be forgiven of our sins.

THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

The second festival in God's plan is the Days of Unleavened Bread. We keep this feast by not eating anything with leavening in it for seven days. God tells us to have all leavening out of our homes during this time. This is why just before these days, your

Parents: Explain what you do on Passover night. Be sure to include the significance of the foot washing, unleavened bread and wine.

mother cleans the cupboards and pantry and throws out all the crackers, cookies, and any other foods which contain leavening.

The lesson God wants to teach us by this festival is to put sin or wrong-doing out of our lives just as we put out the leavening. Remember that leaven puffs things up just as sin puffs us up. For this reason, God wants us to put away sin or doing wrong before it spreads to other areas of our lives.

God wants us to keep His Commandments. Eating unleavened bread for seven days reminds us of this lesson and our need to obey Him. This year as you help your mother put out this leavening, remember the lesson God wants us to learn from this festival.

PENTECOST

Let's now take a look at the third festival picturing the third step in God's plan. It is called Pentecost, and means "fiftieth (day)." Pentecost is fifty days from (beginning with) the Sunday after the Sabbath which usually comes during the Days of Unleavened Bread. Another name for Pentecost is the "Feast of Firstfruits." Pentecost pictures the Church today and how it fits into God's plan.

Many years ago, Jesus Christ came to earth and died on Passover day. He was then resurrected, or made alive, after being dead three days and three nights. He then went to heaven to appear before God the Father. Fifty days later, God sent the Holy Spirit to Christ's disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit is a special spiritual help which God gives to those who have been baptized. Before you receive the Holy

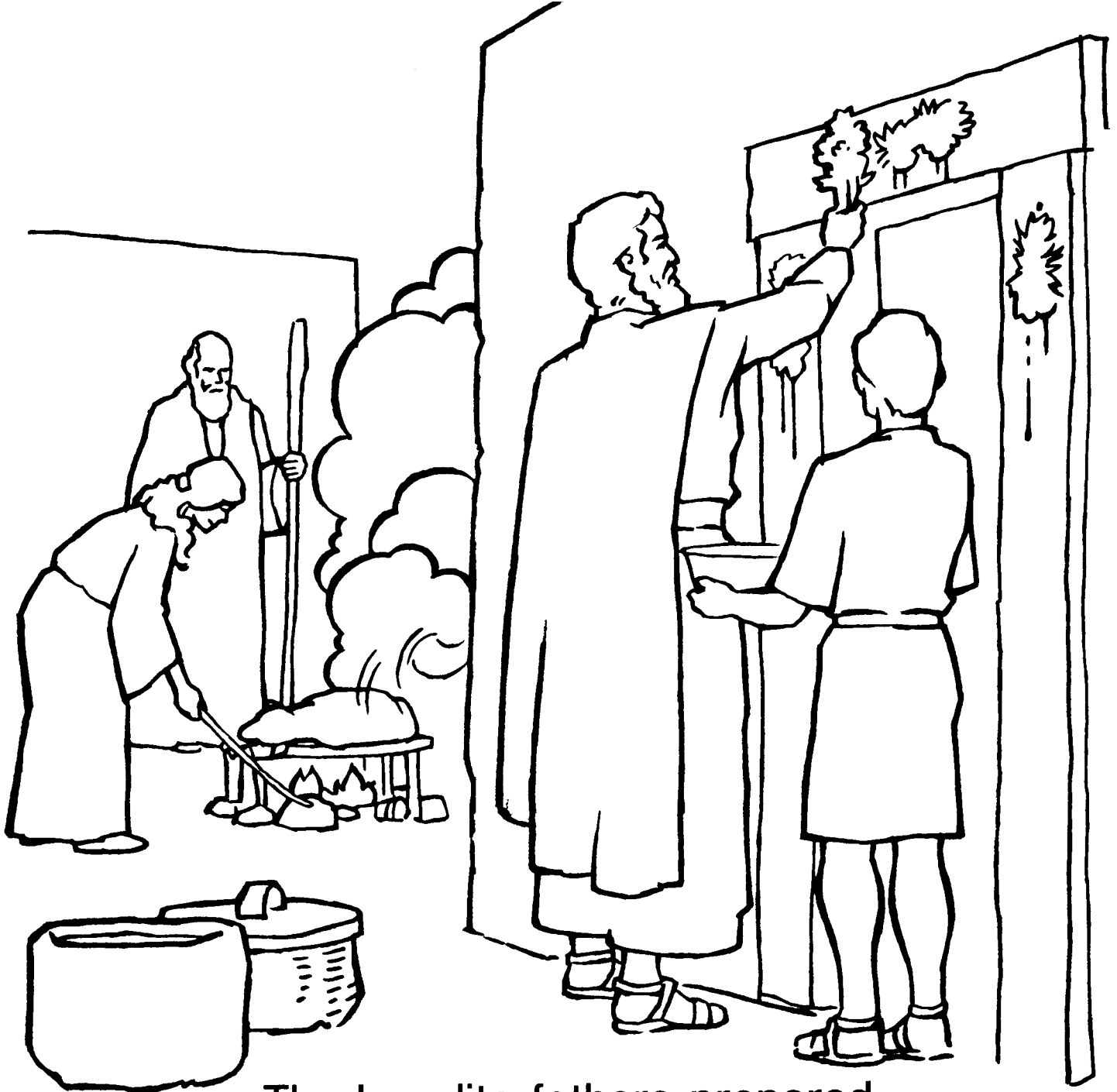
Parents: Explain more about God's way of "give," contrasting it with Satan's way of "get." Tell your child the importance of sharing his or her toys so others, too, can receive enjoyment. Explain why it is important to have a serving attitude.

Spirit, you only have the “spirit in man” which makes you very different from the animals because it makes it possible for you to think and reason. Because you are children of baptized parents, you have the Holy Spirit working **with** you, but when you are baptized (when you are grown up) you will have the Holy Spirit **in** your mind to help you do what is right.

The Day of Pentecost shows us that the people in God’s Church who have received His Holy Spirit are the “firstfruits” of all those to be called by God to understand His ways and be born into His Family. The “firstfruits” are the ones who will help Christ teach God’s way of life to the rest of mankind in the World Tomorrow. Since no human but Christ has yet been given eternal life, Christ is the **first** of the firstfruits to be born into the Family of God.

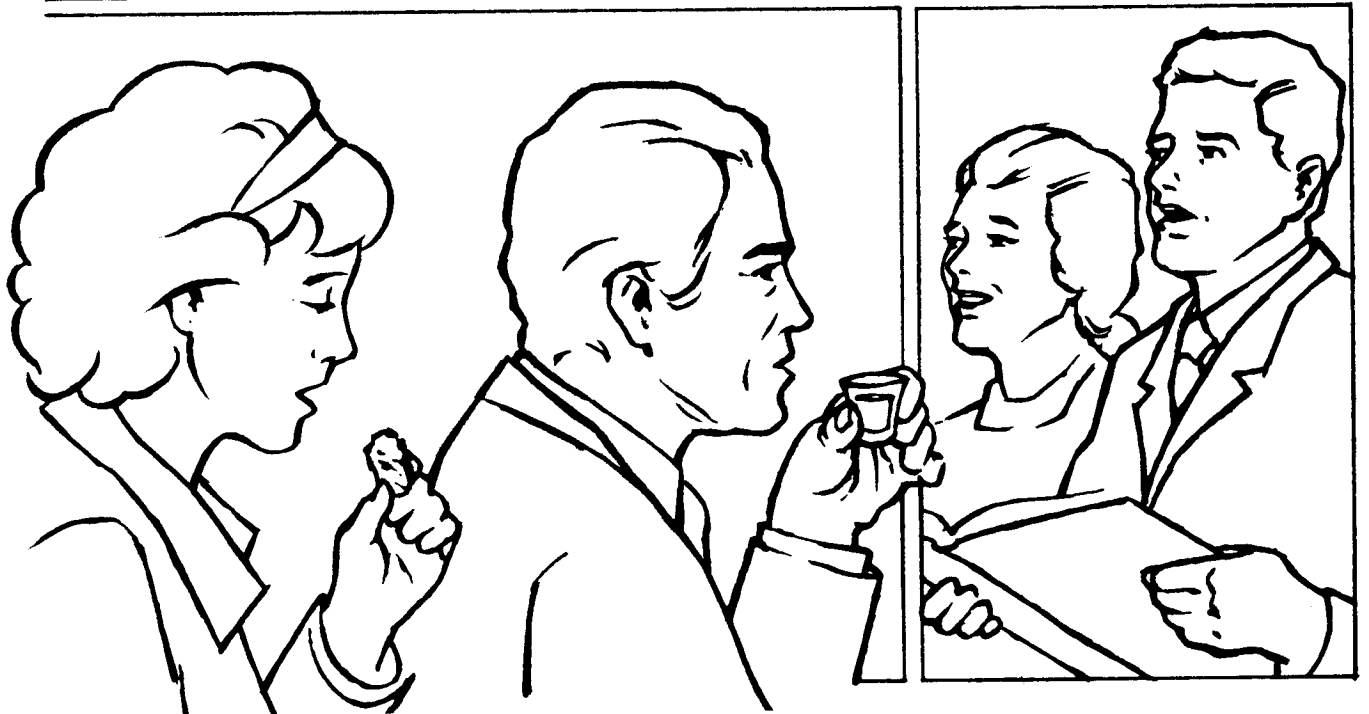
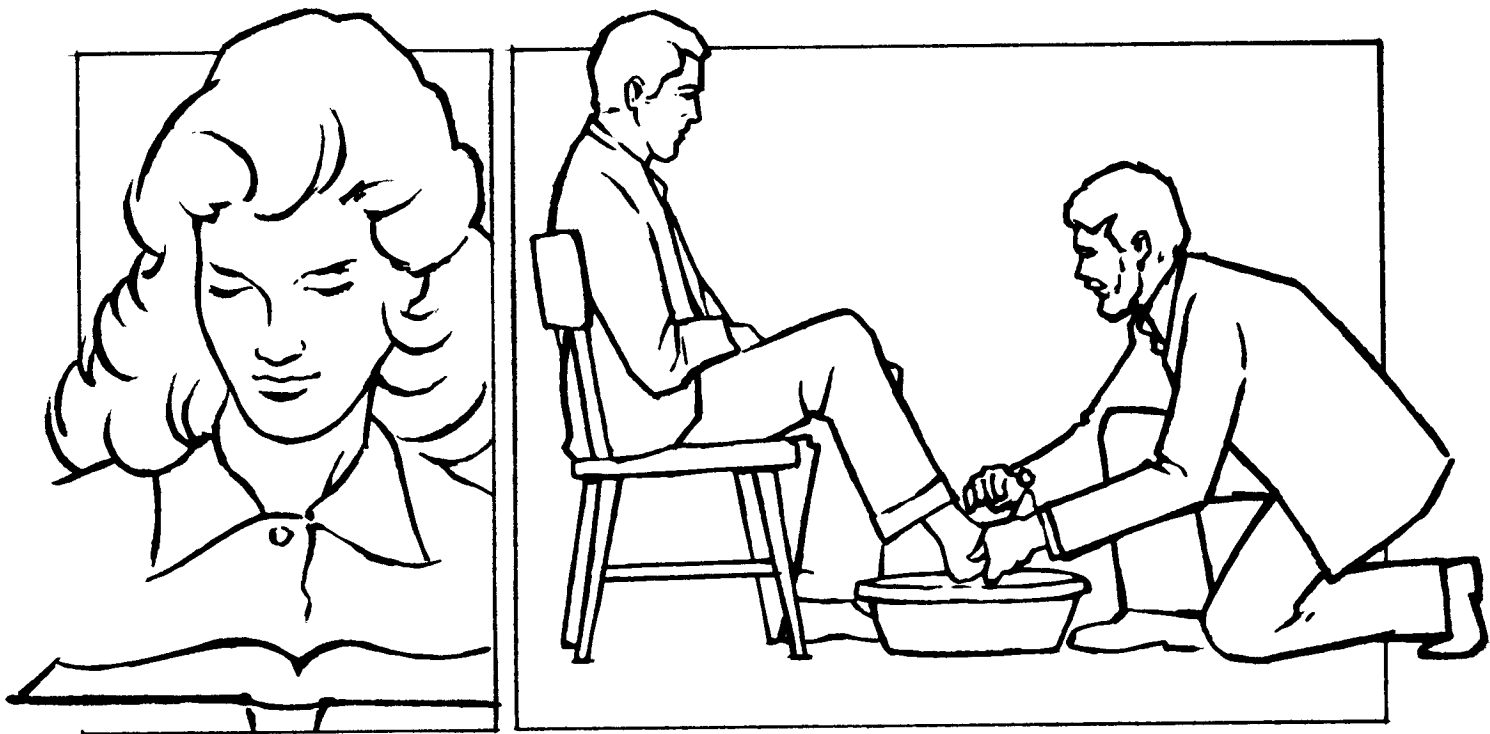
The people in God’s Church are the first to be given the opportunity to become members of God’s Family. Later, when Christ returns to earth and sets up His ruling Kingdom, the entire world will be given the opportunity. This includes all those who have lived and died, but have never heard or understood this wonderful truth of God!

The festivals of the Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost teach us the first three steps in God’s plan for mankind. In the special Fall Festival Lesson, you will learn the meaning of the last four steps in God’s plan, as pictured by the four feasts which come in the fall.



The Israelite fathers prepared a lamb for the Passover. They smeared blood on their doorposts, so the death angel would **pass over** and not kill their firstborn.

Parents: Explain to your child that just as God protected the Israelites who obeyed Him that first Passover, God also protects His people who obey Him today.



Today, these are the things
God's people do on Passover night
to remember Christ's death.

Parents: Instruct your child to color the pictures. Also, review the meaning of Passover, and the meaning of each of the pictures.



The Israelites were very
happy that God delivered them
from slavery in Egypt!

Parents: Ask your child this question: What did the Israelites celebrate on the night they left Egypt, that God's people celebrate today?



Just before the Days of
Unleavened Bread, we must put all
the leavening out of our homes.

Parents: Ask your child what leavening has to do with bread. Then explain the relationship between leavening and sin, and why it is so important not to sin.



Pentecost pictures God's people
as the "firstfruits" of those
He is calling into His Family.

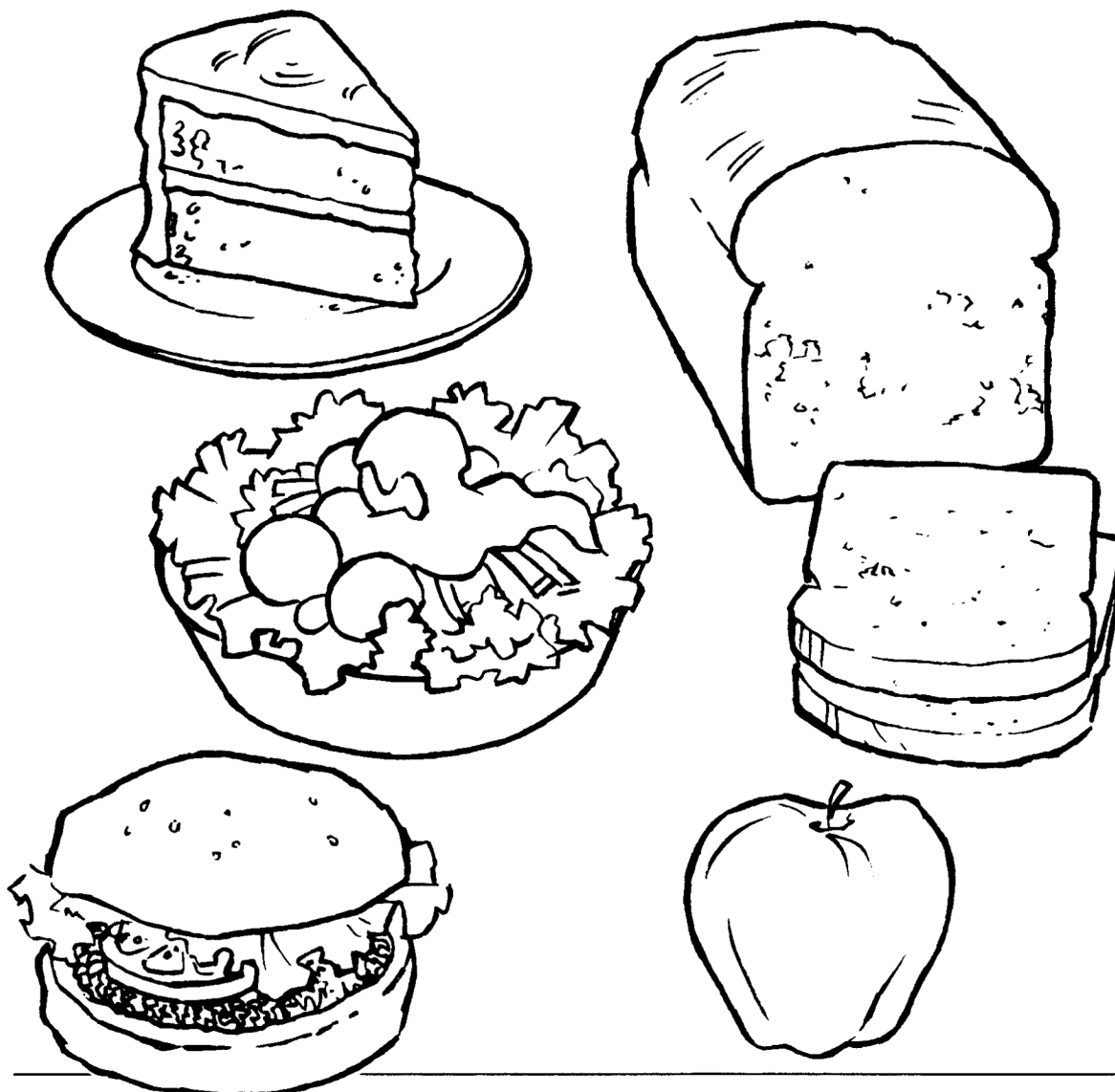
Parents: Explain to your child that he or she will help teach God's way of life — the way of "give" — in the World Tomorrow.

MY SCRAPBOOK

Parents: Your child may wish to paste photographs
of the Night to Be Much Observed here.

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Parents: Have your child circle the items they are NOT to eat during the Days of Unleavened Bread.