

## Passover and the Eucharist

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 7**.

During a time of terrible famine, Jacob's sons and their families moved to Egypt. Jacob's descendants came to be called Israelites, also known as Hebrews.

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As the Hebrews grew in number, the pharaoh enslaved them. The Hebrews were slaves in Egypt for almost 400 years. God chose Moses, a Hebrew raised by Egyptians, to lead the Hebrew people out of slavery.

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While Moses was in Midian, God appeared to him as a voice coming from a bush. The bush burned, but the flames did not consume it. When Moses asked God's name, he responded, "Yahweh," which means "I am who I am."

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When the pharaoh refused to free the slaves, God had to perform many wonders to change his mind. The last of these was the Passover. Today the Jewish people celebrate Passover as a memorial to God for freeing them from slavery.

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The Last Supper was a Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before he was crucified.

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For Catholics, the Mass is a memorial of Christ's passover from death into new life.

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The Eucharist strengthens and unites us in a community of faith.

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When God created the world, he rested on the seventh day. He commands us to do the same. We call this day the Sabbath.

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God told Moses that on a certain night an angel would travel over Egypt and kill the firstborn child in every family. Moses told each family to kill a lamb and sprinkle its blood on the door so that the angel would pass over their house.

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