



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 13: Our Atonement

Suggested Week of Use: May 24, 2026

Core Passage: Matthew 26:17-30

### **News Story Summary**

From April 1-9 of this year, Jews marked the Passover. This annual celebration reflects on the exodus of the Israelites from centuries of Egyptian slavery. Ten times Moses demanded Israel's release, and ten times the Egyptians suffered the consequences of Pharaoh's refusal. God unleashed ten plagues on Egypt, including a final plague that claimed the lives of Egypt's firstborn. The Israelites were spared from this devastating plague. The death angel "passed over" their homes because they had obeyed God and marked their doors with the blood of a spotless lamb. The traditional Passover meal, or *Seder*, follows a fifteen-step path that recounts the exodus in story, song, prayers, and symbolic foods. The exodus has shaped Jewish identity, theology, and practice for more than 3,000 years. The Passover celebration also provides hope, as Jews anticipate the coming of the Messiah.

For more about this story, search "Passover 2026."

### **Engage**

To supplement the Engage activities, ask: *What does betrayal mean?* Discuss responses. Remind adults that Judas betrayed Jesus. Share the news story summary and ask: *Why would you invite someone who would betray you to an intimate event like Passover?* Explain that Jesus planned every detail of His last meal with those closest to Him, including Judas. Point out that while He announced His betrayal in the upper room, Jesus also gave His disciples a way to remember His sacrifice in the Lord's Supper. Share that today's session examines His words to Judas and the new ordinance He established.

### **Challenge**

To supplement the Challenge activities, explain that the Passover meal and the Lord's Supper share symbols of remembrance, including the bread, the cup, and singing. Ask: *Why is it important for us to remember Jesus's perfect sacrifice? How can we adequately prepare ourselves to observe the Lord's Supper?* Lead adults in listing preparations for taking the Lord's Supper. Remind them that Jesus was thankful to God, even as His suffering fulfilled the symbolism of the Passover lamb. Close in prayer, thanking God for the precious gift of His Son, the Lamb of God, our Savior.