

from Egypt Escape ^ Room

AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ESCAPE ROOM GAME
BASED ON THE BOOK OF EXODUS

For school-aged children (and adults!)



This activity is designed to be used in conjunction with

**“A People Set Apart”:
An Orthodox Christian Sunday School Curriculum
Based on the Book of Exodus**



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Education Ministry
THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

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Teachers' Introduction

The Objective of the Game

This game involves a series of **Escape Room** puzzles which participants must solve in succession. The solution to each Escape Room puzzle reveals a secret message about *how God saved His people* during their exodus from Egypt. Each of these Escape Room puzzles takes participants further “out of Egypt” and into an understanding of what it meant for the Israelites to be set apart as God’s people – living in holiness according to His commandments.

After participants collect and decipher all the secret messages, they will bring the messages together into one final activity (the final **Escape Room Exit Door**). This activity explicitly connects the story of God’s salvation in the Old Testament Exodus story with its fulfillment in the New Testament, in the person of Jesus Christ. Through this final activity, participants see how Jesus was prefigured in the Book of Exodus and is the ultimate promise of God’s salvation to His people. Discerning the “ultimate answer” of Jesus out of the secret messages is the final key which unlocks the Escape Room Exit Door and completes the game.

Everyone who completes the game wins!

Teachers' Guides and Instructional Opportunities

Each Escape Room has a corresponding **Teachers' Guide**. Each guide includes an Answer Key as well as additional Suggested Discussion Points which can help supplement and expand on the learning. All the Teachers' Guides are included at the end of this packet.

Teachers, parents, or other game facilitators are encouraged to review the Teachers' Guides and consider if/how to incorporate any additional instruction into the activity.



Teachers' Introduction

How to Play this Game

- Ideally, this game should be **played in succession**, with participants only moving to new Escape Rooms after they have completed the previous ones.
- Participants can play **individually** (one copy of the game per participant), in **groups** (a shared copy of the game for a small group of participants), or as a **whole class** (in which case the teacher might project the game on a screen for all to see).
- Depending upon the type of gathering, this game can be played **all at one time** or it could be **broken up into smaller sections**. Participants might play it from start to finish during a youth gathering or a Sunday church school period, or they might play only one Escape Room at a time over the course of several periods.
- This game is meant to complement the Antiochian Archdiocese's annual curriculum on the Book of Exodus, but **it is not necessary for participants to have learned the curriculum ahead of time in order to play the game**. This game could serve as a fun preview to Exodus before beginning the Sunday church school curriculum. It could also be used as an additional lesson supplement after portions of the the curriculum have been completed (e.g. doing the Red Sea activity after learning about the Red Sea in the curriculum) or as a summative review game at the end of the year. It is also suitable to hand out to families as a take-home activity.

Adapting for Younger Ages

The first four Escape Rooms are suitable for both younger and older school-aged children alike. They involve only basic reading/puzzle solving skills. The fifth Escape Room is a logic puzzle more suitable for upper elementary children and older. Depending upon the age of the participants playing the game, **teachers may choose to adapt for younger students by playing only the first four Escape Rooms and then skipping to the final Escape Room Exit Door.**



from Egypt Escape Room

Greetings!

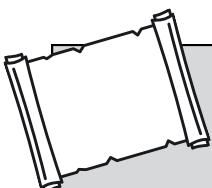
My name is MOSES, and I will be your guide through this Escape Room game.



For this Escape Room story, you are a young Israelite child during ancient Bible times. For hundreds of years, you and your people have suffered in bondage under Pharaoh in the land of Egypt. Life in Egypt has been full of long days of hard labor, harsh treatment, and great sorrow.

But God has heard your cry! He raised up a prophet – me, Moses! My job is to help us escape Pharaoh's clutches and to lead us out of Egypt.

But this journey will not be an easy one. We not only have to leave our life of bondage in Egypt behind, but we need to step into a new life as God's people. Thankfully, God will continue to provide for us all along the way!



Throughout this Escape Room journey, you'll discover hidden scrolls like this. They contain secret messages about how God saves His people. But you must complete the puzzles in order to decipher them!

After you've deciphered each of the secret messages, you will put them all together to unlock the final Escape Room Exit Door. Once you've unlocked it, you will have completed the game and successfully left Egypt behind!



**Lace up your sandals and grab your cloak!
It's time to Escape from Egypt!**



Escape Room #1: The Passover

Because God heard our cries of suffering and bondage in the land of Egypt, He sent me, Moses, to Pharaoh's palace. "Let My people go!" I demanded to the mighty Pharaoh.



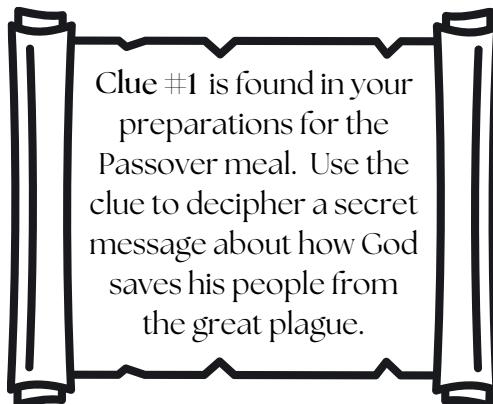
At first, Pharaoh refused. So God sent powerful signs—plagues—to show Pharaoh His power and to convince him to set our people free. But Pharaoh was stubborn and unrelenting, even though he was given many chances to repent and change his ways.

But now, the final plague is nearing. God has warned all the people – Israelites and Egyptians alike – about what is to come.



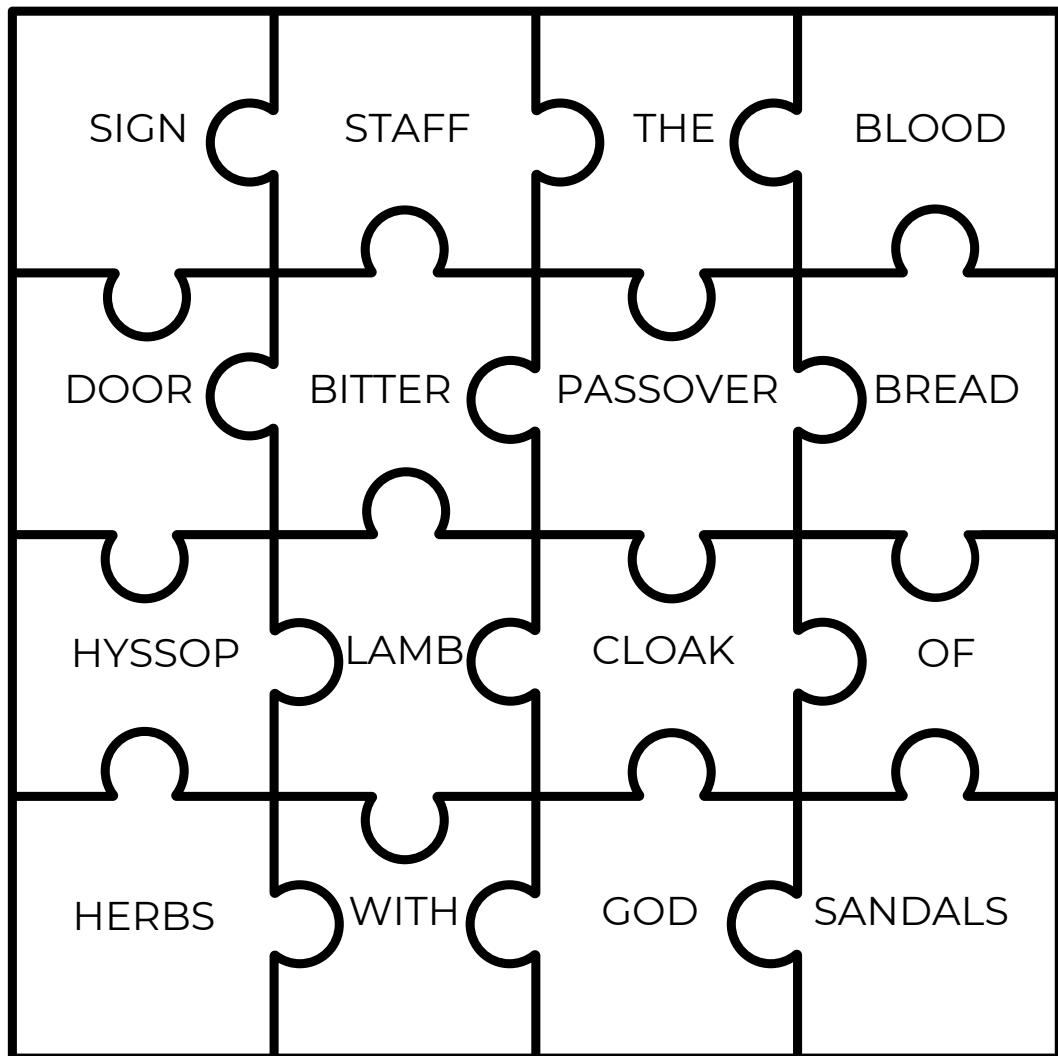
In fact, God has provided a way for anyone who wishes to be saved to escape this plague. They must prepare a special meal with an unblemished lamb, and mark their doorposts with its blood, signifying that they are the people of God. This special meal is called the Passover, because the angel of God will "pass over" the homes with the sign and keep everyone inside safe.

As you and your family begin to prepare this special Passover meal, you discover the first hidden scroll which will lead you in your escape from Egypt.



Passover Puzzle

DIRECTIONS: These jigsaw puzzle pieces contain words which are part of the preparation for the Passover meal. The puzzle also contains a secret message. Cross out the words listed below to see the secret message hidden inside.



Cross out these words:

BITTER
HYSSOP
BLOOD

STAFF
BREAD
HERBS

EGYPT
CLOAK
WITH

SIGN
SANDALS
DOOR

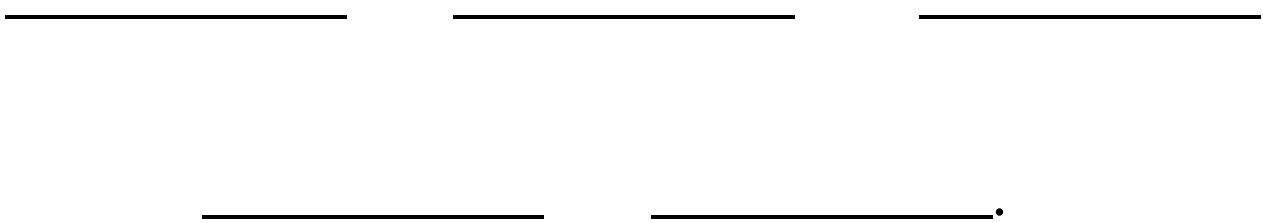


Passover Puzzle : Secret Message #1

After completing the
PASSOVER PUZZLE you can now
decipher secret message #1.

How does God save his people from the great plague?

Safety is found through



from Egypt Escape ^ Room

Congratulations!

You've deciphered **Secret Message #1**. Your Passover meal preparations have shown that you choose to be part of the people of God, and *The Passover Lamb of God* has kept you safe from the plague.

You now continue to **Escape Room #2** in your escape from Egypt...



Escape Room #2: The Red Sea

After the final plague, Pharaoh has finally agreed to let the Israelites leave Egypt. With me, Moses, as our leader, all of our people pack up our belongings and begin the long journey out of this land of bondage.



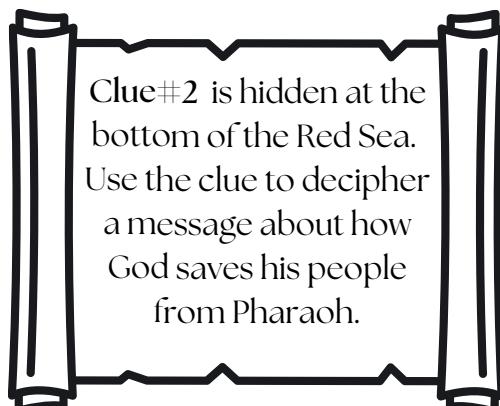
You begin this journey with great hope and joy. But your joy is short-lived when we soon encounter a major obstacle. The Red Sea is blocking our exit of Egypt! It is a giant body of water that is too wide, deep, and treacherous for swimming. We will surely drown!



Oh no! Now you look behind you and see that Pharaoh and his men are chasing after us with their fast horses and chariots! Pharaoh has changed his mind and won't let us leave Egypt after all! Behind us is bondage, but ahead of us is a watery death. *How will we be saved?*

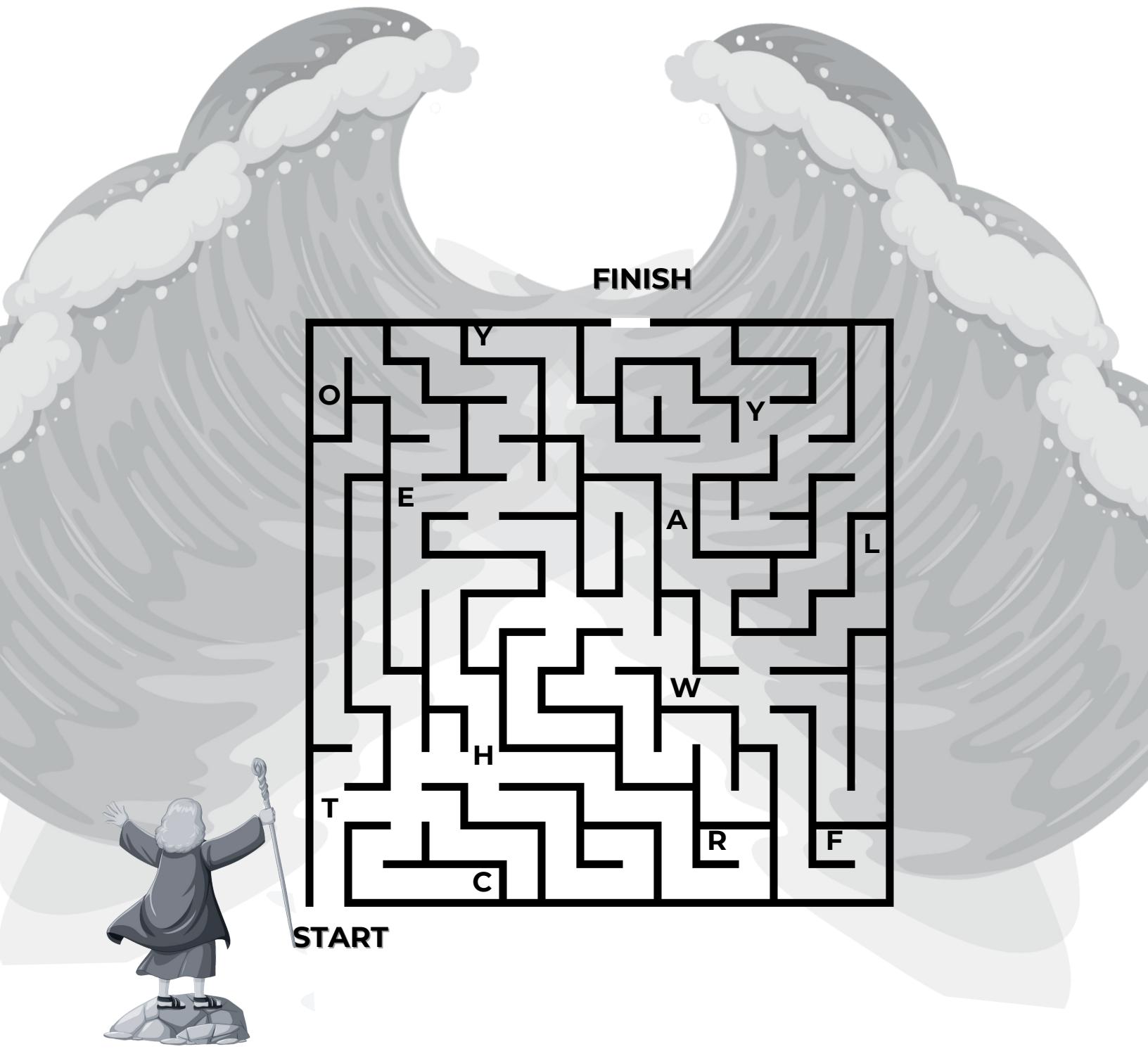
Look! I, Moses, stretch out my hand over the Red Sea, and God causes the waters of the Red Sea to part. Before us lies a path of dry ground which we can walk across to safety!

As you are about to step through the parted waters, you notice another scroll with a new message about our escape from Egypt...



Crossing the Red Sea Maze

DIRECTIONS: Find your way through the RED SEA MAZE as you make a path from the start to finish. Collect the letters along the correct path to find how God saves his people from Pharaoh's and his chariots. Watch out for dead ends!



Passover Puzzle : Secret Message #2

After completing the
CROSSING THE RED SEA MAZE you can
now unlock message #2.

How does God save his people from
Pharaoh?

God provides

through the water.



from Egypt Escape ^ Room

Congratulations!

You've deciphered **Secret Message #2**. With the waters parted on your left and your right, you cross the Red Sea safely using *The Way* God provided. No sooner do you get to the other side before waters come crashing back down behind you, drowning your Egyptian pursuers. You are safe from Pharaoh and his chariots!

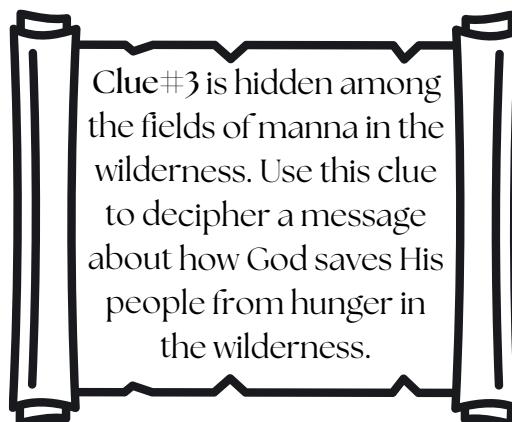
You now continue to **Escape Room #3** in your escape from Egypt...



Escape Room #3: Manna in the Wilderness

Whew! We've made it across the Red Sea, but now we have a long *long* journey ahead of us. And this journey takes us across a vast, dry wilderness where there is no food. We are *so hungry!* How will we survive?

Good thing you've found another hidden scroll which includes a message about food!



Clue #3 is hidden among the fields of manna in the wilderness. Use this clue to decipher a message about how God saves His people from hunger in the wilderness.

God tells us that He will provide a special food for us during our time in the wilderness. God will send this food, which we call *manna*, to cover the ground each morning. With special jars, we are to collect enough food to last us for the day, and trust that God will continue to provide what we need each day after.

You wake up early the next morning and head out to the fields. Sure enough, there's a whole field of manna before you! You take a close look to see that it's a type of bread that looks a little bit like popcorn. It makes this desert wilderness look like it's been covered with snow!

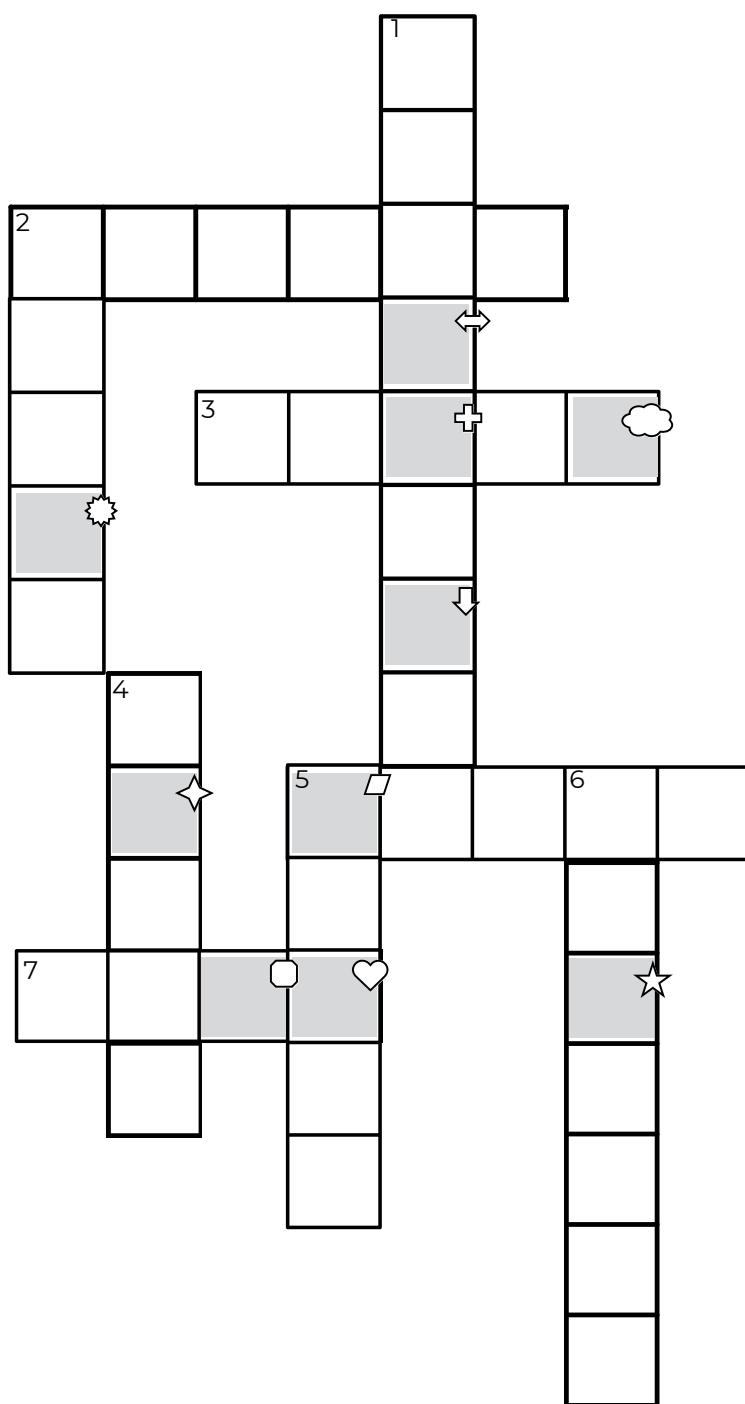


With your special jar in hand, you begin searching through the fields of manna to satisfy your hunger – and to decipher the next secret message!



Manna Crossword Puzzle

DIRECTIONS: Complete this MANNA CROSSWORD PUZZLE. Use Genesis Chapter 16 as your guide. Once you complete the puzzle, you can reference the shapes in the shaded boxes to decipher the special message about how God provides for His people.



ACROSS:

2. God sent manna because the Israelites complained to Moses that they were feeling _____. (Exodus 16:3)
3. God also sent this bird in the evening for food (Exodus 16:13)
5. The white manna looked like ____ on the ground. (Exodus 16:14)
7. The Israelites were told to gather one ___ of manna each day, according to the number of people in each family. (Exodus 16:16)

DOWN:

1. The bread from heaven was as small as this seed. (Exodus 16:31)
2. Manna tasted like this sweet substance. (Exodus 16:31)
4. If the Israelites left manna out until morning, it would breed _____ and stink. (Exodus 16:20)
5. The Israelites ate manna for this many years. (Exodus 16:35)
6. What day were they supposed to gather twice as much so they could rest? (Exodus 16:22-23)

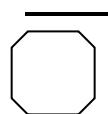
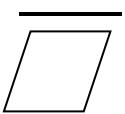
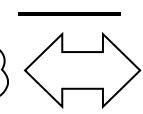
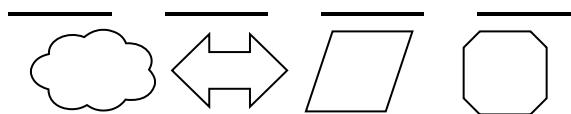
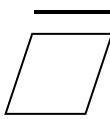
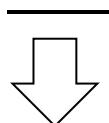
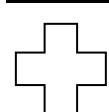
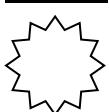


Passover Puzzle : Secret Message #3

After completing the
MANNA CROSSWORD PUZZLE, you can
now decipher message #3.

How does God save His people from
hunger in the wilderness?

God provides the



from Egypt Escape ^ Room

Congratulations!

You've deciphered **Secret Message #3**. With the promise of daily manna, *Bread of Life*, each morning – plus the additional water and quail meat which God also provides for us on our journey – we have what we need during our journey in the wilderness.

You now continue to **Escape Room #4** as you move further away from Egypt...



Escape Room #4: The 10 Commandments

From the very beginning of our escape from Egypt, God has called us to be His special people. We responded by preparing the Passover meal, by crossing the dry ground of the Red Sea, and by daily trusting His provisions.

But after so many centuries of being under the rule of the Egyptians, we don't really know how to be God's people anymore. After all, the Egyptians worshipped false gods and made sacrifices to idols. Their way of living was not good. It was not God's way.

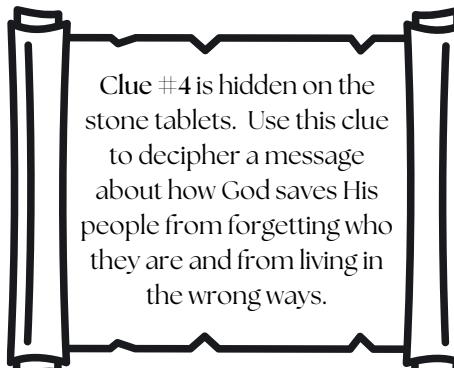
But you're confused. How do you live God's way, now that you are free from the bondage of Egypt? How should God's people live and worship in order to help them always know and remember that they belong to Him?

Thankfully, God has provided for us once again. Hidden in a great cloud, God comes to the top of a mountain called Mt. Sinai. On the mountain, He gives me, Moses, instructions on how to live and worship. These instructions – God's Law – teaches us how to be God's people.



On Mt. Sinai, God provides me with two stone tablets that summarize this Law. They are the 10 Commandments! And He makes a special agreement with us – promising to be our God, and calling us to be His people, set apart from all others. As we follow His ways, He will guide us, protect us, and stay with us always.

As I come down the mountain carrying the 10 Commandments, you notice yet another hidden message.



10 Commandments Word Scramble

DIRECTIONS: Oh no! The 10 Commandments are all scrambled up! Unscramble the letters and write the words correctly in the blanks. Need some help? Read about the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20. Once you've unscrambled the words, the starred letters will spell out the secret message.

The Ten

DSMCMNEANTOM



1. Have no other gods before me
2. Don't make DOLIS _____ ★
3. Don't take the Lord's name in AIVN ★ _____
4. MEBERMER _____ ★ the Sabbath & keep it holy
5. OHNRO _____ your father & mother ★
6. Do not murder.
7. Honor marriage
8. Do not LESTA _____ ★
9. Do not bear false witness (lie) to your EHGINBOR ★ _____
10. Do not VECOT _____ your neighbor's things. ★



Passover Puzzle : Secret Message #4

After completing the
10 COMMANDMENTS WORD
SCRAMBLE you can now decipher
message #4.

How does God save his people from
forgetting who they are and from living
in the wrong ways?

God makes a

with His people.



from Egypt Escape ^ Room

Congratulations!

You've deciphered **Secret Message #4**. God's covenant is His enduring promise to always be our God. With God's Law in front of us, we now know how to be His people!

You now continue to **Escape Room #5**, having left the ways of Egypt far behind and growing in our relationship with God and becoming His people.

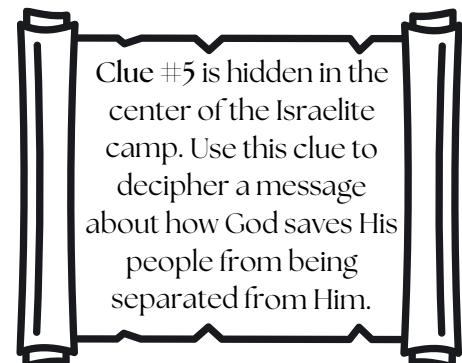


Escape Room #5: The Israelite Camp

During this journey out of Egypt, God has shown His presence to us in different ways. While we journeyed, He was present in a guiding cloud by day and a protecting fire by night. When He spoke to me, Moses, on Mt. Sinai, He showed His presence through a dense cloud with thunder and lightning so that all the people could see and hear. All of this helped us to know and trust that God was with us.

But now we start to worry. We don't want God to leave us. We want to always know and feel His presence. But how can we do that? After all – He is *GOD* and we are just, well... people.

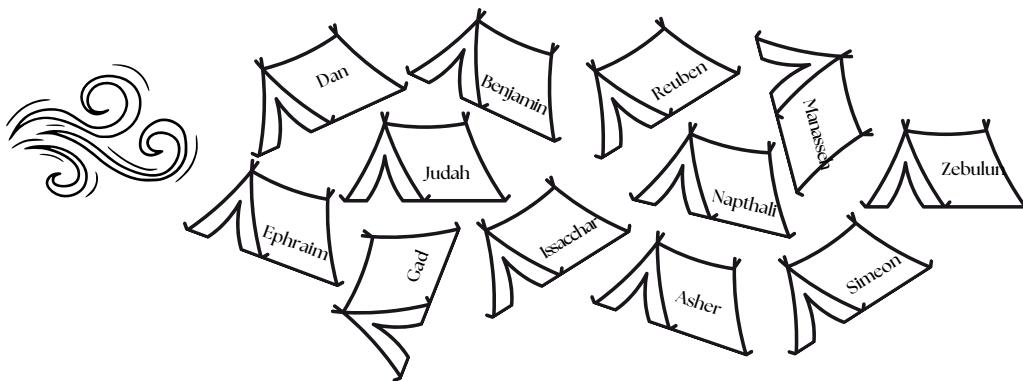
As you ponder this question, you look down on the ground and find a scroll whose message gives us hope...



Clue #5 is hidden in the center of the Israelite camp. Use this clue to decipher a message about how God saves His people from being separated from Him.

You recall that God gave special instructions on how to set up our Israelite camp. Different families or *tribes* of people were to arrange their tents around a special tent called a *tabernacle*, which is cared for by the tribe of Levi. You head back to camp looking for the clue at the center of camp.

Unfortunately, a strong wind has come through camp and blown all the tents out of order! No one can remember how to set up camp again!



I'm going to need your help setting up the camp again according to God's plan – and so that you can find the clue at the center!

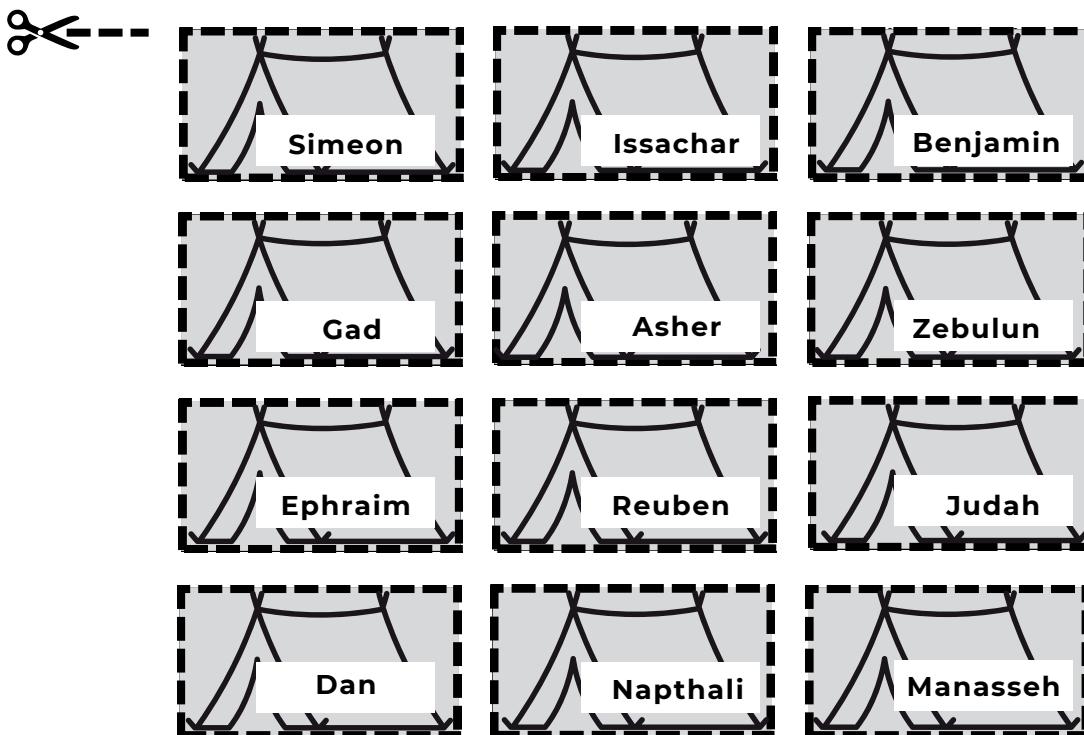


Israelite Camp Logic Puzzle

DIRECTIONS: Cut out the tents for each tribe and use the clues to arrange them in their designated sections on the fictional ISRAELITE CAMP MAP (next page). There are three tribes in each section, and each section has one leader tribe. Once you complete the map, you can decipher the special message at the center of the Israelite camp.

CLUES

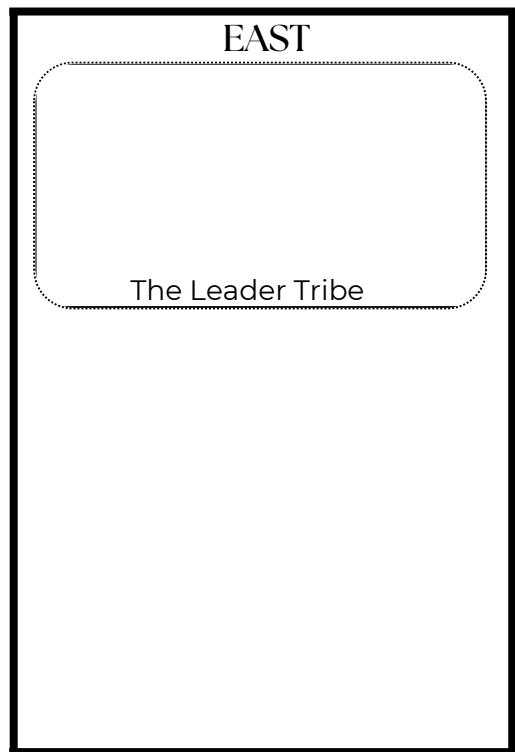
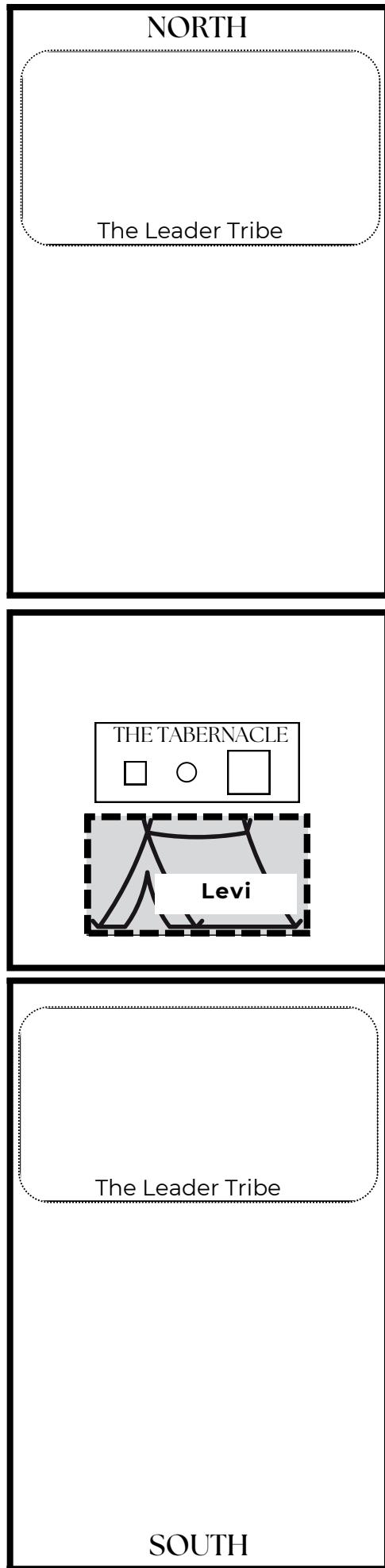
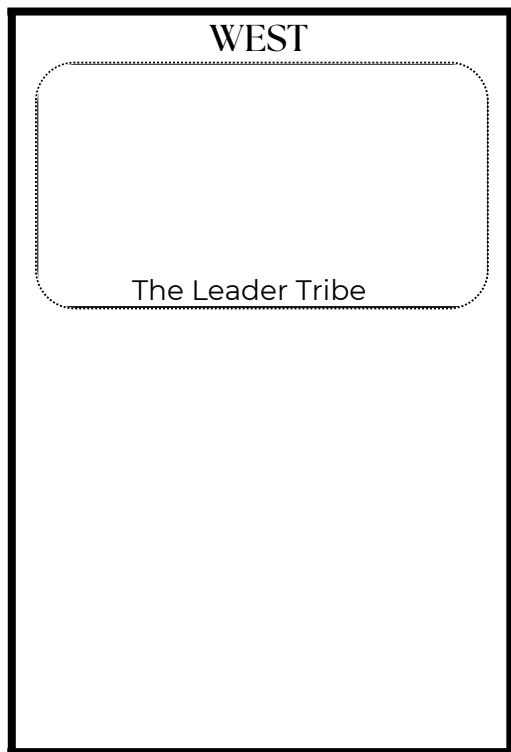
1. The tribe of JUDAH camped on the east side.
2. The house of Joseph was divided into two tribes: the tribe of MANASSEH and the tribe of EPHRAIM. Both of them camped on the west side.
3. The tribe of REUBEN camped on the south side with the tribe of GAD.
4. The tribes of DAN and NAPTHALI and ASHER all camped on the same side.
5. The tribes of ZEBULUN and ISSACHAR camped on the east side. Neither of them were leader tribes.
6. The tribe of DAN led the north side.
7. The tribe of MANASSEH was not a leader tribe.
8. The tribe of GAD was on the same side as the tribe of SIMEON, but neither of them were leader tribes.
9. The tribe of BENJAMIN was not a leader tribe; it shared a side with the tribe of MANASSEH.



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Israelite Camp Map



Israelite Camp Logic Puzzle: Secret Message #5

After completing the ISRAELITE CAMP LOGIC PUZZLE, you can now decipher message #5.

How does God save His people from being separated from Him?

Through the tabernacle,

The tribe who leads the NORTH side

The tribe who leads the SOUTH side

The tribe who leads the WEST side

The tribe who leads the EAST side

KEY

Issachar = *Tent*
Zebulun = *Loves*
Ephraim = *Among*
Reuben: *Dwells*
Dan = *God*
Simeon = *Food*

Naphtali = *Sacrifice*
Manasseh = *Spirit*
Benjamin = *People*
Asher = *Son*
Gad = *Walks*
Judah = *Us*



Escape Room Exit Door

Congratulations! You've successfully deciphered all the secret messages! But there's one final, locked door barring your escape from Egypt. Thankfully, the secret messages you've collected along the way will lead you to the key.

Directions: Read each Bible verse and fill in the missing blanks related to each secret message. The answers will point to the central key that holds them all together.

Message #1: The Passover Lamb of God

St John the Baptist proclaims that _____ is the lamb of God.
(John 1:29)

Message #2: The Way

_____ says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

Message #3: Bread of Life

_____ says, "I am the bread of life." (John 6:35)

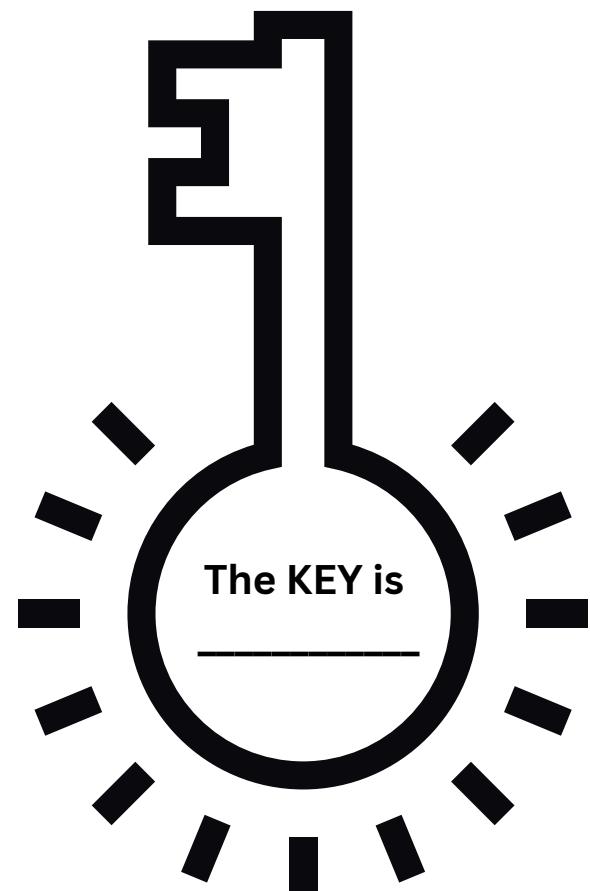


Message #4: God's Covenant

_____ says, "This is my blood of the new covenant." (Matthew 26:28)

Message #5: God with Us

St. Joseph is told by the angel to name his son _____. This son will be called Emmanuel, meaning God with us. (Matthew 1:20-23)



Congratulations!

You've successfully unlocked the final Escape Room Exit!

Through God's saving power, you have left the bondage of Egypt behind, and you've learned what it means to live a new life as God's people – setting yourself apart in holiness like Him. Along the journey, you've seen how God has been preparing the way for the perfect **Passover Lamb**, the **Way** through the waters, the nourishing **Bread of Life**, the fulfillment of **God's Covenant**, and the eternal presence of **God with Us**.

Jesus Christ!



Escape Room #1: Teachers' Guide

Answer Key:

Secret Message #1 Answer: "THE PASSOVER LAMB OF GOD"

Main Idea:

Most importantly, help students to make the connection between the Passover Lamb and Jesus, the Lamb of God.

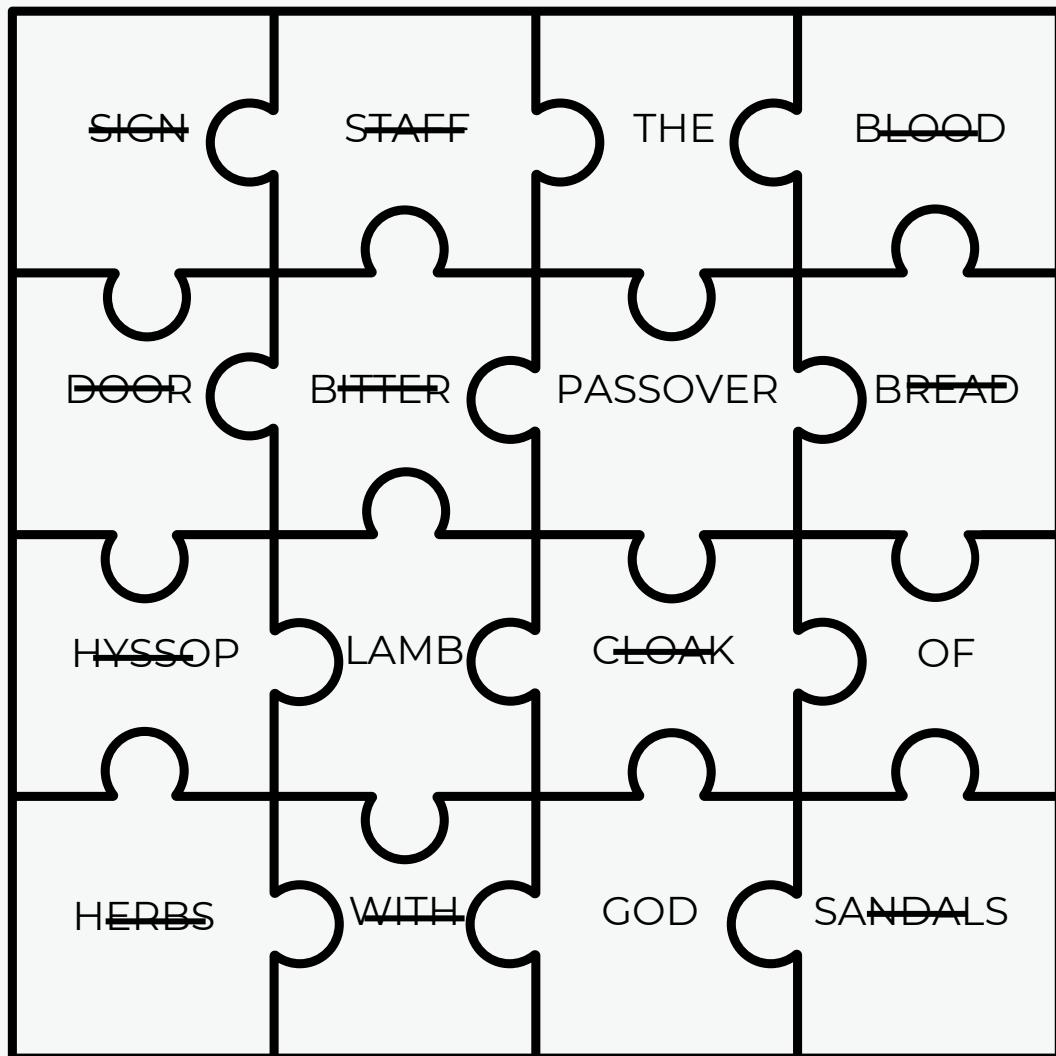
Suggested Teacher Discussion Points for this Activity:

- Explain why the lamb had to be unblemished in the original Passover. [An unblemished lamb showed that they were giving God their best, not just what they could spare. It also pointed to God's holiness. God is holy and pure—so anything offered to Him had to be clean and unblemished. This reminded the people that God's way is holy and that He wants His people to live in purity and truth.] Connect this to how Jesus is without sin, the perfect unblemished Lamb.
- Ask students if they can guess what the Greek word is for Passover. [*Pascha*] Ask students to see if they can guess why/how our Pascha celebration is a fulfillment of the Passover. Referencing Holy Week and Pascha services, show how Jesus is the ultimate Passover (Paschal) lamb whose blood was shed for our salvation.
- Explain to students how God told the Israelites to celebrate Passover each year, to remember this first Passover event and to pass on to their children the story of how He saved them. (Exodus 12:24–27; Numbers 9:1–5). The yearly celebration of Passover helped the Israelites remember God's rescue during their time in the wilderness. [The first Passover celebration in the Promised Land (Joshua 5:10-12) signified a major moment of God's fulfilled promise. In the New Testament, we see Jesus and His disciples continuing to celebrate Passover just as God commanded, most especially at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:17–30; Mark 14:12–26; Luke 22:7–20; John 13–19)]. Ask students to think of a type of meal we Christians have that is *also* about remembering how God has saved us. [The Eucharist] When we eat and drink, we are remembering the ultimate Passover/Paschal Lamb, Jesus. Help students make the connection between the institution of the Eucharist and the Passover meal at the last Supper. Teachers might ask: "Where do you hear the words 'the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world in the Liturgy'?" Point to the priest's preparation of the Holy Gifts (*Proskomide*), where the Lamb is cut from the bread and pierced, reminding us of Christ's sacrifice.



Passover Puzzle

DIRECTIONS: Use the clues to find the secret message that's hidden in this jigsaw puzzle. Cross out the words listed below to see which words remain.



Cross out these words:

BITTER

STAFF

EGYPT

SIGN

HYSSOP

BREAD

CLOAK

SANDALS

BLOOD

HERBS

WITH

DOOR



Escape Room #2: Teachers' Guide

Answer Key:

Secret Message #2 Answer: "THE WAY"

Main Idea

Help students see that Jesus is “the way” from death into life. In particular, crossing through the sea was like leaving the old life behind—leaving bondage—and entering a new life of freedom with God. This is a foreshadowing of baptism.

Suggested Teacher Discussion Points for this Activity:

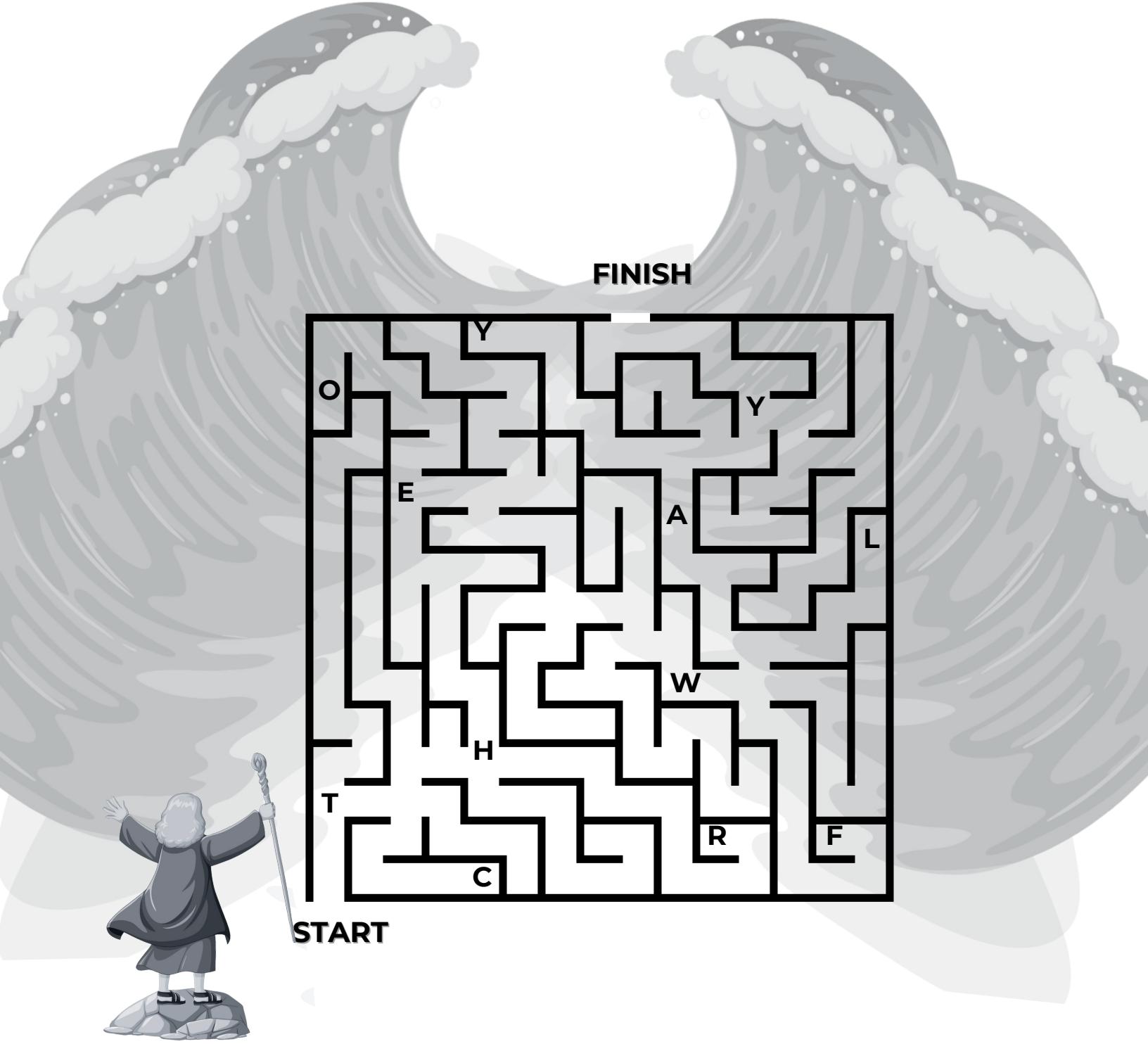
- Point out to students that the waters of the Red Sea both literally and symbolically represented death. God made a way through the water, but the Israelites had to walk through it. In this way, they were conquering “death (from Egyptians) by death (in the waters).” Ask students where we hear similar language [Paschal Troparian].
- Have students pretend to raise their hands over the waters as Moses did – both hands outstretched – and imagine the sea parting in front of them. Then invite them to look around and see what shape this makes [a cross]. Explain to students how the cross of Jesus makes “the way” through sin and death, just as the cross of Moses’ outstretched arms made a way through the Red Sea.
- Say to students: “The Israelites passed through the water to begin a new life. Can you think of something that happens now where we pass through waters to start a new life with Christ?” [Baptism] At developmentally appropriate levels, explain how the Red Sea crossing is seen as a *type*, or prefiguring, of Christian baptism. This is because the Red Sea crossing symbolizes God’s deliverance of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, just as baptism symbolizes deliverance from sin and death through Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:1-2 makes this explicit connection.
- Older students might engage with this quote from St. Augustine: “Your sins are your enemies. They will follow you, but only up to the Red Sea. When you have entered (the Red Sea through baptism), you will escape: they (your sins) will be destroyed, just as the Egyptians were engulfed by the waters while the Israelites escaped on dry land.”



Crossing the Red Sea Maze

ANSWER KEY

DIRECTIONS: Find your way through the RED SEA MAZE as you make a path from the start to finish. Collect the letters along the correct path to find how God saves His people from Pharaoh's and his chariots. Watch out for dead ends!



Escape Room #3: Teachers' Guide

Answer Key:

Secret Message #3 Answer: “BREAD OF LIFE”

Main Idea:

God's provision of the bread from heaven which fed the Israelites not only provided for their daily needs, but it also pointed to Jesus, the “bread of life.”

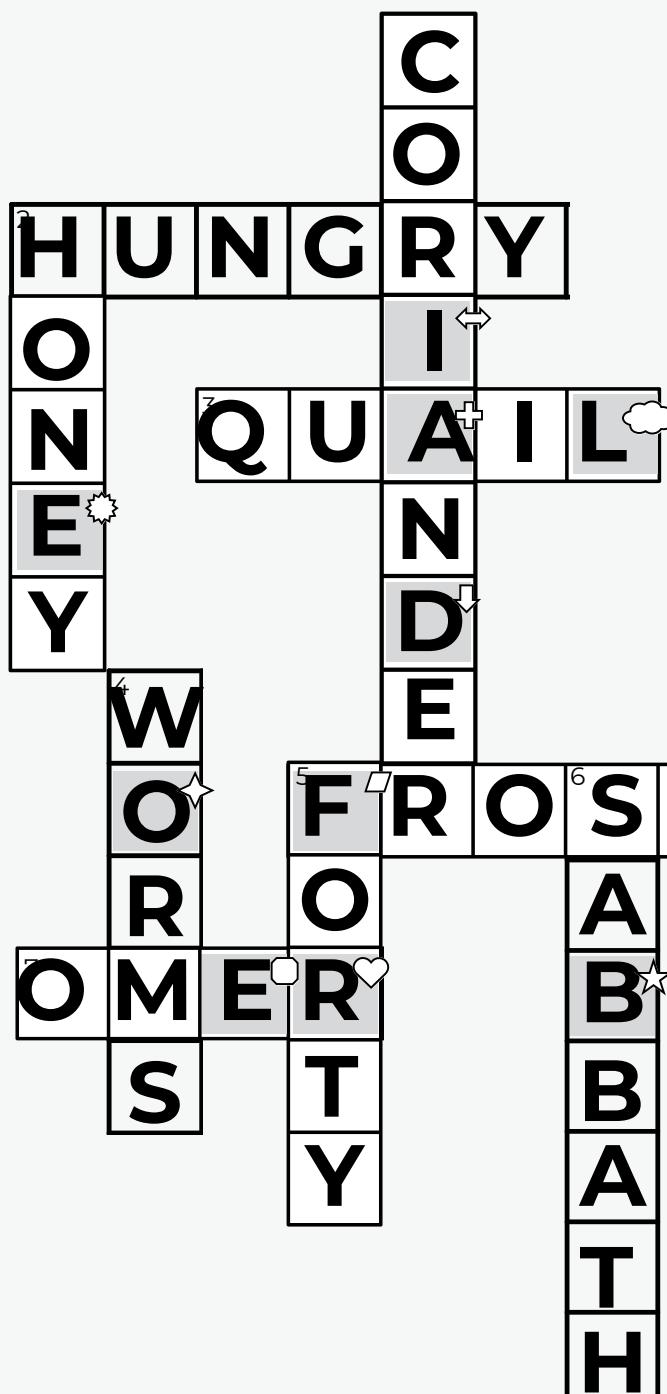
Suggested Teacher Discussion Points for this Activity:

- Fun talking point: The word *manna* literally means “what is it?” because the people didn’t know what it was!
- Clarify that the people could only collect what they needed for each day—no hoarding! God was teaching them to trust Him daily for what they needed. Connect this to “Give us this day our daily bread...” from the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:11).
- Ultimately, the manna was a sign—a preview of something greater. Later, Jesus would tell the people that He is the true Bread from Heaven. (John 6:48–50). Ask students to make connections between the story of God’s provision in the wilderness and God’s provision through Jesus.
- Remind students that the manna was collected in special jars. Ask students, “If Jesus is the manna, who do you think the jar is?” [The Theotokos, because she was the vessel that held the Bread that is Christ]. The Akathist Hymn (Ode 4) makes this explicit: “Rejoice, lamp and golden jar containing the manna which sweetens the senses of the devout.”
- Ask students how this story of manna might relate to the Eucharist. Help students see that during the Divine Liturgy, we are fed with this lifegiving bread from heaven—Jesus Himself.



Manna Crossword Puzzle

DIRECTIONS: Complete this MANNA CROSSWORD PUZZLE. Use Genesis Chapter 16 as your guide. Once you complete the puzzle, you can reference the shapes in the shaded boxes to unlock the special message about how God provides for His people.



ACROSS:

2. God sent manna because the Israelites complained to Moses that they were feeling _____. (Exodus 16:3)
3. God also sent this bird in the evening for food (Exodus 16:13)

5. The white manna looked like ____ on the ground. (Exodus 16:14)
7. The Israelites were told to gather one ___ of manna each day, according to the number of people in each family. (Exodus 16:16)

DOWN:

1. The bread from heaven was as small as this seed. (Exodus 16:31)
2. Manna tasted like this sweet substance. (Exodus 16:31)
4. If the Israelites left manna out until morning, it would breed _____ and stink. (Exodus 16:20)
5. The Israelites ate manna for this many years. (Exodus 16:35)
6. What day were they supposed to gather twice as much so they could rest? (Exodus 16:22-23)



Escape Room #4: Teachers' Guide

Answer Key:

Secret Message #4 Answer: “COVENANT”

Main Idea:

The Ten Commandments were part of God’s covenantal promise to be their God and to help them to be His people. Ultimately, the covenant is fulfilled in Christ, who perfectly keeps the Law and establishes a new covenant.

Suggested Teacher Discussion Points for this Activity:

- Say to students: “When God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, He didn’t just set them free—He made a special promise, or covenant, with them. Part of that covenant was teaching them how to live as His people, through the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Law.” (Exodus 19:5) God’s covenant shows us how to live with Him in love and obedience.
- Ask students to think of class rules that they might have at school and to reflect on why those rules exist. Then have students look at the 10 Commandments and reflect on what they show us that God values. [loving Him first, telling the truth, honoring parents, and living with kindness and respect, etc]. Help students see that the 10 Commandments (and by extension the entire Law) is not first and foremost a set of rules. The covenant tells us how to live in a way that reflects God’s holiness -- to be set apart like Him.
- God made a covenant to say, ‘You are mine.’ The Ten Commandments helped the Israelites understand how to live as God’s people—not like the Egyptians, but like people set apart for Him.” (Leviticus 26:12 – “I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.”) God’s covenant means we belong to Him and live differently because of His love.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the Covenant – first made with Abraham and reaffirmed at Mt. Sinai. He kept God’s commandments perfectly. Ultimately the shedding of his blood represented a new covenant (Luke 22:20). Remind students of the words the priest prays at the Anaphora: “Drink of this, all of you; this is My Blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins.”
- Consider an activity comparing the old and new covenants. Older students might review Hebrews 8:7-13 and make observations about the differences between the two. Students might also write the new commandment from Jesus (John 13:34-35) on the image of a heart, and superimpose it on top of the original stone tablets.



ANSWER KEY

10 Commandments Word Scramble

DIRECTIONS: Oh no! The 10 Commandments are all scrambled up! Unscramble the letters and write the words correctly in the blanks. Need some help? Read about the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20. Once you've unscrambled the words, the starred letters will spell out the secret message.

The Ten

DSMCMNEANTOM C O M M A N D M E N T S



1. Have no other gods before me
2. Don't make DOLIS I D O L S
★
3. Don't take the Lord's name in vain V A I N
★
4. MEBERMER R E M E M B E R
the Sabbath & keep it holy
★
5. OHNRO H O N O R your
father & mother
★

6. Do not murder.
7. Honor marriage
8. Do not LESTA S T E A L
★
9. Do not bear false witness (lie) to your
EHGINBOR N E I G H B O R
★
10. Do not VECOT C O V E T your
neighbor's things.
★



Escape Room #5: Teachers' Guide

Answer Key:

Secret Message #5 Answer: “GOD DWELLS AMONG US”

A Quick Note:

Though God's instructions for the design of the Tabernacle itself are found in the Book of Exodus, God's instructions for the arrangement of the tribes *around* the Tabernacle is actually found in Numbers (Chapter 2).

Main Idea:

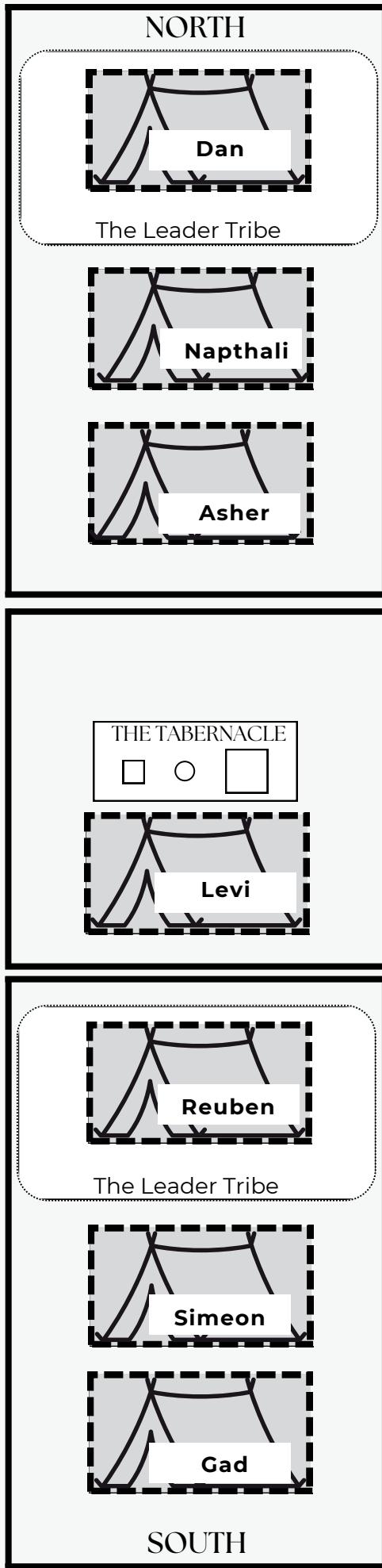
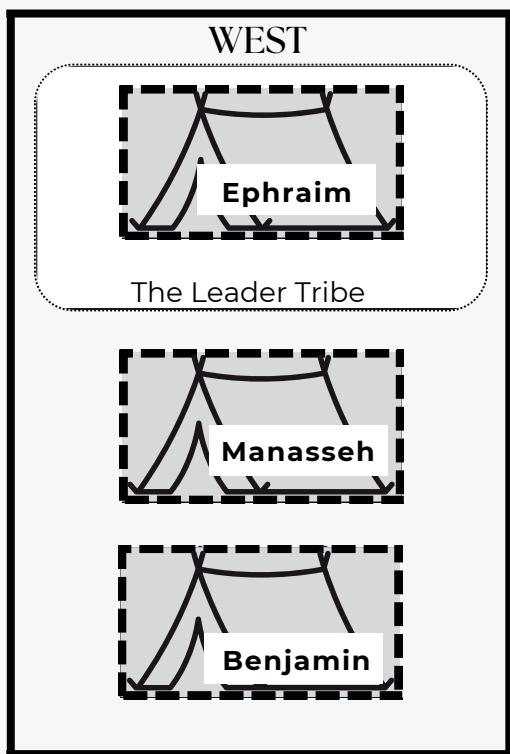
During the course of the Sunday church school lessons in Exodus, students will study the Tabernacle more closely and will see how each of the details points to Christ and the Church. However, this portion of the Escape Room activity can serve as an additional opportunity for teachers to emphasize two points: The tabernacle was the place of God's dwelling at the center of the camp, and even the arrangement of the Israelite camp itself prefigures the coming Messiah who dwells among us (Emmanuel).

Suggested Teacher Discussion Points for this Activity:

- After students complete their camp maps, explain that the Tabernacle was a special tent which contained the Holy of Holies -- a place where God's presence would come and dwell or live. Though students will learn more about this during the Sunday church school lessons, invite them to reflect on what it might have meant to the people to know that God's presence was there in the very center of their camp. Surely this was an extraordinary feeling to know that the same God who had saved them from Pharaoh, who had parted the Red Sea, and who had provided manna in the wilderness was dwelling among them.
- Direct students to John 1:14: “The Word became flesh and dwelled among us.” Tell students that *the Word* is a reference to Jesus. One meaning of the word “dwelled” is “made his tent.” Note how this reminds us of the Israelite camp. In the Tabernacle, God “made His tent” among the Israelites. In Jesus Christ, God “made His tent” among us -- no longer a presence within a tent, but a person *in the flesh!* The very arrangement of the Israelite camp pointed to the way in which the Messiah would come -- dwelling among them!
- To further emphasize this point, ask students what the shape of the map looks like and marvel about how its shape as a cross points to Jesus as well.
- Teachers can also add or remind students that in the Israelite camp, only the High Priest from the tribe of Levi was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies where God's presence dwelled. But when Jesus came, the veil between God and man was lifted. Jesus lived and walked and ministered among all the people -- Jews and Gentiles alike -- allowing all of us to become the people of God.



Israelite Camp Map



ANSWER KEY

