

Get ready for God

Pharaoh made the Israelites slaves in Egypt, but God was leading them to freedom. Now God prepares the Israelites for the last of the 10 plagues – the first Passover – and their release from slavery.

God spoke to Moses and Aaron, two brothers who were the leaders of the Israelite slaves in Egypt.

‘Get ready for a new start! From now on, this month of Nisan 🌙 will be the first month of the year for you.’

Then God explained how to prepare for this new start.

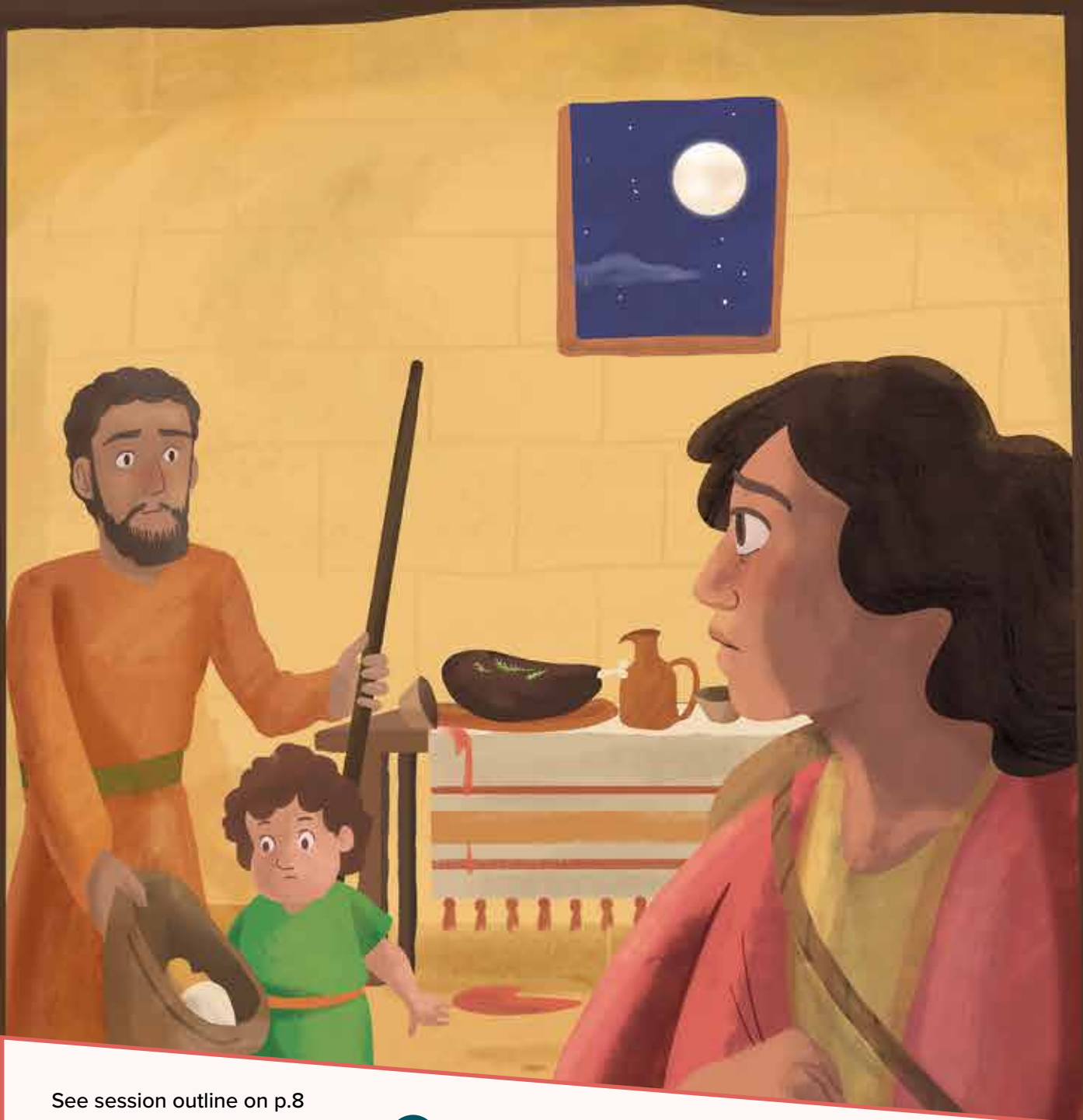
‘On the 10th day of the month, each household must purchase a lamb for a feast. If a whole lamb is too big, families may share, but the animal must be a year-old male in good condition.

‘Don’t sacrifice the lambs straightaway,’ God instructed. ‘Take care of them until the 14th of Nisan. Then, in the evening, as the sun goes down, gather and butcher your animals together. Take blood from those lambs and paint the doorframes of your houses with it; the blood will show where Israelites live 🌙.

‘Roast your lambs over a fire and eat the meat with bitter herbs and unleavened bread 🌙. Do not leave any meat until morning; if you don’t finish it, burn the leftovers.

‘Remember, this is a new start for you,’ God continued. ‘Eat as though you’re ready to set out on a journey, with your sandals on and walking stick in your hands. On the night of the feast, I will pass over 🌙 Egypt, killing the firstborn in every house unless I see lamb’s blood on the doorframe. I am God and this is my judgement on the Egyptians and their gods.

‘Every year from now on, this day will be a celebration of your release from slavery in Egypt, the Passover of the Lord; every generation of Israelites will celebrate it.’ 🌙



See session outline on p.8

Stop and share

Read the story and pause at the * to share these points with the children.

- * The Israelites used a different calendar to us, tracking the cycles of the moon and each month had 28 days. Nisan falls in March or April of our calendar year.
- * These were special instructions from God so that the Hebrew families would be safe.
- * Unleavened bread is bread baked without yeast; the Israelites would not have to wait for the bread to rise and would be ready for their journey more quickly.
- * This is where the Jewish festival, Passover, gets its name from.
- * This festival is all about celebrating freedom – from slavery and from death.