

OBA BC03 Session 5 Instructor Supplement (Optional)

Purpose: Use these guides if you want your class to act out the Passover sacrifice.

Stage: Set a chair forward in the room and designate it as the altar. (Describe the actual altar—large, bronze, with a perpetual fire carefully tended by the priests. A grid at the top was where the sacrificial portions were burned. But this day’s sacrifices were intended to be eaten, not burned up.)

Actors: Have three serve as priests, lining them up within a close arm’s reach of each other from the altar toward the rest of the class. If you have a large class, double the number of priests and have two lines.

Props: Distribute four disposable bowls to each line of priests. Explain that these are golden bowls used to catch the blood of the lambs as they were slaughtered. You can also use a short wooden dowel or a ruler as a flint knife.

Instructions: (After the priests are in place and everyone is on their feet.)

In the actual Passover service there were thousands of families gathered for worship. This is something that could not be done ahead of time, because the command was precise, they were to slaughter the Passover lambs each year at twilight, starting at 3pm and ending at 5pm—the same time that they were slaughtered on that night in Egypt.

Because there were so many that had to be sacrificed, the priests formed an assembly line. There were two files of priests that stretched out into the congregation, one on each side of the altar. The sacrifice was made and the priest caught the blood in a golden bowl. The bowls were passed along the line of priests and the end priest poured them out at the base of the altar and passed them back.

We are going to replicate that service tonight, so I want everyone to imagine that they are carrying or leading a little lamb. While the choir is singing the psalm, each one of you will approach the end priest, place your hands on the little lamb, take the knife from the priest, and use it on the lamb.

Priest, you will hold the golden bowl to catch the blood, pass the full bowl to the next priest, take the knife and get the empty bowl from the priest, ready to do it again. Remember, you have thousands of these to do and only two hours to get them done, so you need to be efficient.

The center priest, you have to handle the bowls, take the full bowl from the end priest and pass it carefully on to the altar priest. At the same time, you have to take the empty bowl from the altar priest and pass it on to the end priest.

The priest at the altar has to take the full bowl and pour it out at the base of the altar and then pass the empty bowl back.

Priests, be very careful with the blood. It represents the life of the worshipper and it must be poured out at the base of the altar as an offering to the Lord. This is the celebration of the national salvation and God is teaching that he will accept a substitute to save the life of the worshipper.

While you are offering the sacrifice, imagine a large choir behind the altar. At this particular service, they sang what we call the Hallel Psalms, 113-118. But you, as the people, did not just listen, you participated. There are some lines you repeat back in full. Most of the time, you just add “Hallelujah” at the right time. Now, “Hallelujah” was shouted, not mumbled. This is praise to the Lord, and you as loyal covenanters want to fully participate in the praise.

//practice a few times to break the ice and get people into it