



A Little Bit of Leaven

Exodus 12: 14-20

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Markers/Pencils
- ✓ Unleavened and leavened bread
(if these are not available photo illustrations are provided)
- ✓ Copies of Coloring Sheet
- ✓ Copies of Word Search
- ✓ Copies of take home overview sheet



A Little Bit Leaven

Objective of Lesson

What is leaven and what does it represent in the scriptures? This is a wonderful and vivid picture of what false teaching will do in the churches of God. The objective of this lesson is to give the children a visual of how false teachings can spread and what it will do when just a little false teaching is accepted, tolerated, and even overlooked in the church. It leavens the whole lump. It changes the truth and simplicity of the gospel, and it becomes something completely different than it is.

Scripture Reference

Exodus 12:14-20

New International Version (NIV)

14 "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. **15** For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. **16** On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do.

17 "Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the

generations to come. 18 In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day.

19 For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. 20 Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread."

Lesson Instructions

1. How many of you have made bread before? We all love bread - especially big fluffy loaves of bread! The fluffier it is the better! It is soft and spongy and yummy! Did you know that the Lord created bread in order to teach us about Himself and how He saves sinners? Did you know that bread is actually one of the ways the Lord teaches us about Himself? Isn't that amazing!? Everything that was created on this earth teaches us something about Christ our Lord in some way, but the Bible especially mentions bread, and so that is what we are going to talk about today. We are going to talk about bread and leaven or (yeast), and we are going to talk about what this teaches us about Christ.
2. You see the word "bread" all through the scriptures. In the Bible "bread" represents the body of Christ, our savior. You have probably seen us eating "unleavened" bread during the Lord's Supper. Bread is what the Lord uses in the scriptures to represent His body. (2 Cor. 11: 24) When we "break bread" - sit down to eat bread and break it into pieces, it represents how Christ's body was broken and sacrificed so that His people might live. We have to eat the bread to live - just like Christ has to be in us to live. It is a beautiful picture and is very helpful in demonstrating what Christ did to save His people from their sins.
3. The specific subject I want to talk about today is something that we put IN bread that makes it rise. The Bible refers to it as leaven. Today we call it

yeast. Here I have two types of bread. One was made with yeast or leaven and the other was not. Can you describe to me the difference in the two? One is flat, not fluffy. It is more like a cracker. The other is big and puffed up. That is more like the bread we eat today. Which one was made with yeast and which one was not? The one that is not puffed up is the unleavened bread. It was not made with yeast. The one that is puffed up is leavened bread. Yeast was added to it to make it puff up.

4. Now what in the world could this be teaching us about Christ? I am going to read you a few verses and then we will answer that question. Can any of you read our verses for us? **14** *"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. 15 For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do. 17 "Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. 18 In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. 19 For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. 20 Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread."*
5. Let's discuss what these verses are saying. God is commanding His people here to have a feast and one of the rules to having this feast is you must eat bread that is unleavened. (Hold up the unleavened bread) He said here that if you even have any yeast in your houses you will be cut off from the people of God! Wow! What is the big deal? What if we like puffed up bread? Why

does it matter if you have unleavened bread or not? Ah ha! The actual bread is not important. It is what the bread represents!!!

6. Does anybody know what this is? This is leaven. This is yeast. (Open up the packet and pour it into a bowl.) It doesn't look like much, does it? It is just a little bit of powder - insignificant really in itself, but it is a powerful thing. That little bit of leaven can make bread go from this (Hold up the unleavened bread) to this (Hold up the fluffy loaf of bread).
7. Remember what the Bible teaches us that bread represents? It represents Christ's body. That is right. The leaven must represent something also, right? What could that be? The Bible tells us. (Matthew 16: 6, Matthew 16: 12, Luke 12:1) Leaven represents false teachings - lies told about Christ. Lies and people acting falsely seems harmless enough, (Hold up the yeast packet) but when added to the truth of Christ (Hold up the bread) all it does is puff it up and make people proud of themselves. When you add the yeast it changes the simple teaching of Christ alone. Leaven represents false teachings. Anything that is not true and anything that is added which complicates or confuses the simple gospel truth of Christ doing all that is needed to save His people, has the same action as leaven in bread. It puffs up and it is no longer recognizable as the same thing it was.
8. Let's see if we can apply this to an example of the gospel. Here is the simple gospel truth: Christ came to this earth, did everything God required and died and paid for the sins of His people. It is finished and done. Nothing can be added to this act and nothing can be taken away. It is complete in every way. The sinner doesn't have to do anything else. A sinner's salvation is free in every way - very simple. There is only one element to the gospel, and that is Christ. Christ created everything. Christ came to this earth. Christ fulfilled the law we broke. Christ died for the sins of His people. Christ rose again and Christ is now seated on the right hand of God forever and His people are accepted in Him. Did any of those things mention anything about what we did or added to that work? No. It is all Christ. Just as the scriptures say,

"Christ is all and in all". That is it. Christ. HE is the simple gospel message.

9. Now what if I say all THAT, BUT I add ONE little thing to it like, "Well yes, God did it all but you STILL have to be a good person and do the right thing?" That seems harmless enough, right? There is nothing wrong with being a good person. You should be a good person. AHHH but when you add that as an ingredient to the finished work of Christ, (Hold up the unleavened bread) it goes from all about Christ - to something completely different. Salvation is no longer just about Christ. It is not about Christ and you doing your part. That little tiny bit of leaven that you added just leavened the whole lump.
10. So you see, that is why the Lord forbade His people to use leaven when they had their feast in remembrance of Him. It was not really about the bread and the yeast. Those are just earthly things. No, it was about what it TEACHES us. The Bible tells us to beware of the leaven of false teachers and preachers. They will try to add just one little seemingly harmless item to the simple truth of Christ, and it will change the whole thing. Christ is the gospel. He alone is the good news and nothing else can or should be added. He did it all. Beware of the little additions and false truths. A little leaven will leaven the whole lump. Amen.

Lesson Activities

- Coloring Sheet
- Taste and handle unleavened and leavened bread
- If you do not have physical examples of these breads available, photos are provided for illustrations.

Take Home Lesson Overview

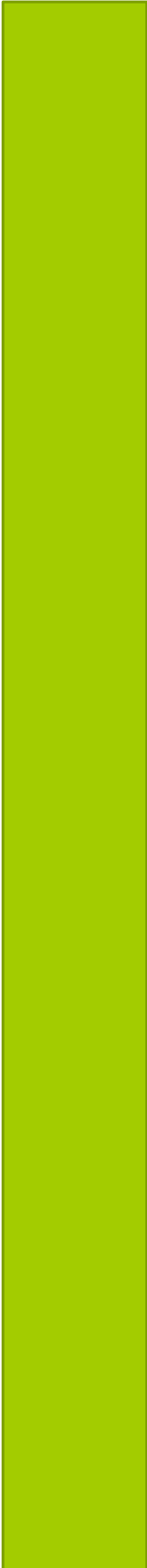


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Scripture Reference: Exodus 12:14-20

Lesson Overview:

The Bible teaches us bread represents Christ's body. The Bible tells us (Matthew 16: 6, Matthew 16: 12, Luke 12:1) leaven represents false teachings, little half truths and additions - lies told about Christ. A little leaven (little half truths and additions) seems harmless enough, but when added to the truth of Christ (the bread) all it does is puff it up and make people proud of themselves. When you add the leaven (false teachings) it changes the simple teaching of Christ alone. Leaven represents false teachings. Anything that is not true and anything that is added which complicates or confuses the simple gospel truth of Christ doing all that is needed to save His people, has the same action as leaven in bread. It puffs up and it is no longer recognizable as the same thing it was. Here is the simple gospel truth: Christ came to this earth, did everything God required and died and paid for the sins of His people. It is finished and done. Nothing can be added to this act and nothing can be taken away. It is complete in every way. The sinner doesn't have to do anything else. A sinner's salvation is free in every way - very simple. There is only one element to the gospel, and that is Christ. Christ created everything.



Christ came to this earth. Christ fulfilled the law we broke. Christ died for the sins of His people. Christ rose again and Christ is now seated on the right hand of God forever and His people are accepted in Him. Did any of those things mention anything about what we did or added to that work? No. It is all Christ. Just as the scriptures say, "Christ is all and in all". That is it. Christ. HE is the simple gospel message.

Now what if I say all THAT, BUT I add ONE little thing to it like, "Well yes, God did it all but you STILL have to be a good person and do the right thing?" That seems harmless enough, right? There is nothing wrong with being a good person. You should be a good person. AHHH but when you add that as an ingredient to the finished work of Christ, it goes from all about Christ - to something completely different. Salvation is no longer just about Christ. It is not about Christ and you doing your part. That little tiny bit of leaven that you added just leavened the whole lump.

So you see, that is why the Lord forbade His people to use leaven when they had their feast in remembrance of Him. It was not really about the bread and the yeast. Those are just earthly things. No, it was about what it TEACHES us. The Bible tells us to beware of the leaven of false teachers and preachers. They will try to add just one little seemingly harmless item to the simple truth of Christ, and it will change the whole thing. Christ is the gospel. He alone is the good news and nothing else can or should be added. He did it all. Beware of the little additions and false truths. A little leaven will leaven the whole lump. Amen.



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