



I. Living on God's Calendar

A. The Lamb is _____ (Nisan 10)

Exodus 12:3 "Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household."

B. The Lamb is _____ (Nisan 14) - Passover

Exodus 12:6 "and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight."

Leviticus 23:5 "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the Lord's Passover."

C. Sin is _____ (Nisan 15) - Unleavened Bread

Leviticus 23:6 "And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread."

D. New Life Begins (Nisan 17) - Firstfruits

Leviticus 23:10b-11 "When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it."

II. The Third Day Changes Everything

A. _____ Begins When Judgment Ends

Genesis 8:4 "and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat."

B. God Makes a Way Through Your Dead End

1. From _____ to Feasting (Exodus 12:40-41)

2. From _____ to Life (Exodus 3:18b; 5:3; Numbers 33:3)

C. _____ Comes to an End (Joshua 5:10-12)

D. _____ is Not the End of the Story

Ruth 1:22 "So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest."

E. _____ Can Be Restored

2 Chronicles 29:17b-18a "and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished. Then they went in to Hezekiah the king and said, 'We have cleansed all the house of the Lord'"

2 Chronicles 29:20 "Then Hezekiah the king rose early and gathered the officials of the city and went up to the house of the Lord."

F. God Can _____ What Was Broken

Nehemiah 2:1a "In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king."

Nehemiah 2:5 "And I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.'"

G. The Death Sentence is _____

Esther 3:12a "Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded"

Esther 3:13a "Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews"

Esther 4:16a "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day."

H. The _____ is Not the End (Matthew 28:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26)

2 Corinthians 4:14 "knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence."

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 "Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."



April 5, 2026

BACKGROUND:

God presents “Firstfruits” as a common theme in Scripture. He established the firstfruits offering (Leviticus 23:9-14) and the Feast of Firstfruits (Deuteronomy 26:1-11). Believers have the firstfruits of the Spirit (Romans 8:22), and most importantly, Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrected dead (1 Corinthians 15:20). In God’s divine timing, Jesus’ resurrection occurred on the third day, the day of the Feast of Firstfruits.

DIGGING DEEPER:

God’s plan has always been to point us to the coming Messiah, Jesus. The meaning of firstfruits is just as relevant to Christians today as it was to the Jews of the past.

1. The firstfruits offering was a sheaf of grain set apart for the Lord. How are believers set apart for the Lord, sanctified and holy and how is this applicable for you today?
2. The Feast of Firstfruits during Passover was to show thanksgiving to God for all He provided. How do you express thanksgiving in your walk with God?
3. The firstfruits of the Spirit is a deposit or guarantee of the believer’s adoption as God’s child. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit who indwells within us. In what ways does this truth uphold the confidence of your faith and hope in Christ?

Paul told the church in Corinth that if Jesus was not resurrected then there is no resurrection for the dead and our faith would be in vain (1 Corinthians 15:13-14). The bodily resurrection of Jesus proved He is the Son of God and that His sacrifice was pleasing and acceptable to the Father as a propitiation for our sin (Romans 3:21-25). Paul tells us, “But, in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

To gain an appreciation of the many aspects of the resurrection, read the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians in its entirety and discuss.

4. Why do you think Satan would attack the legitimacy of the resurrection so fiercely?
5. “Resurrection” means rising from the dead. Jesus and his apostles were involved with several resurrections, including Lazarus. How is Jesus’ resurrection different from those others?
6. Why is it significant that Jesus’ resurrection was a bodily one and not merely a spiritual one?

TAKING IT HOME:

It was necessary for Jesus, who is fully God, to also become fully man and live a sinless life so He could offer His body as a sacrifice to reconcile sinful man to a holy God. His body was resurrected on the third day – during the Feast of Firstfruits. On that day He presented Himself as the Firstfruits of God’s harvest. His bodily resurrection precedes our own.

7. When we celebrate Easter, what are we actually celebrating? Do you actually celebrate that with your whole mind, body, soul, and spirit?
8. How is this different than how the world celebrates Easter?
9. Which unbelievers in your life can your group be praying for so they may come to know the resurrected Jesus?