

PASSOVER

—WITH JESUS—



FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES



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RESOURCES**

PASSOVER SUPPER WITH JESUS

*“I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing.”*

(John 15:5)

Jesus shared Passover with His disciples. During their supper He instructed them to remember Him. Following is a template for a family time of remembering His Last Supper.

- Thursday of the last week of Jesus' life, before going to the cross, He gathered His disciples together to share the Passover with them. In John 13, Jesus becomes a servant, washing His Disciples feet. This is a good way for a parent to humble themselves before God and their families.
- Gather a wash basin and some towels. This can be a special bonding time as you wash one another's feet. Parents, read John 13:14-15. Leave the wash basin and gather in a circle. Parents, read or recite John 14:1-3.
- Pray together.
- Take a short break and get out a bowl of grapes. Share the grapes as a child reads or recites John 15:5.
- Next, set out cups and flatbread, and give each person present a cup of grape juice and a piece of bread. Read Matt. 26:26-28 as you all eat bread together.
- Have an adult pray over the family and read John 17: 20-21
- Set out a Passover plate and placemats. (Biblical or Traditional)
- Read Exodus 12:11 and tell a portion of the original Passover story. Share a few of the Passover food items and what they help us remember.
- Close by sharing evidence of God's provision to your family, and sing a song together.

The Passover with Jesus

(from John 13-17)

John 13:14-15 Washing the disciples feet

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

John 14:1-3 Jesus comforts His disciples

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

John 15:5 “You can bear no fruit unless you remain in Me”

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

(Sharing Grapes)

John 16 Jesus tells His disciples He is going away, and to remember Him when they eat bread and wine.

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

(Matt. 26:26-28)

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The Passover with Jesus

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John 17:20-21

Jesus prays for His followers and for us who believe through their testimony.

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Exodus 12:11 Remembering the Passover

“This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.”

BIBLICAL: (Ex. 12:8)

**Roasted Lamb
Bitter Herbs
Matzah**

SYMBOLIZES:

**Sacrificial Lamb/Protection
Slavery/Sin
Bread of Life**

TRADITIONAL:

**Drumstick
Flatbread/Matzah
Parsley
Boiled Egg
Wine or Juice
Horseradish
Kale/Bitter Vegetable
Salt Water
Charoset
(Chopped apples, dates, nuts, honey mixture)**

**Sacrificial Lamb/Protection
Matzah/Bread of Life
Tears/Baptism
Holiday/Final Sacrifice
Plaques/Sanctification
Slavery to Sin
Long (40 years) Journey
Cleansing/Tears/Red Sea
Mortar/Mud and Straw
Bricks**

(See “Seder Ingredients” for more detailed Seder symbolism list)

Ingredients of the Seder Supper

1. The First Cup: The Cup of Sanctification



Each person fills a glass with wine or juice.

Explain: This is the cup of sanctification. The word *sanctification* means to be set apart for God. Jewish families remember that God performed miraculous deeds to free (set apart) Israel from Egypt. We remember that Christ set us apart from the world as a holy nation to himself (**1 Peter 2:9**).

Everyone drinks the first cup.

5. The Four Questions and the Passover Story



The leader and the youngest child in the family now ask and answer four important questions that explain why the Passover is celebrated. Next, the leader reads **Exodus 12:1-13** as he holds up the lamb bone.

Explain: At the original Passover celebration, a lamb was killed and its blood was spread on the doorposts and lintel of the house to protect the home from the 10th plague, the slaying of the firstborn. God said He would *pass over* the house when He saw the blood (**Exodus 12:13**). Each person had to eat of this sacrificial lamb—no one could eat for another person. We understand that we must each make a personal decision to spiritually apply the blood of Jesus to the doorposts of our heart so we never experience sin's judgment (**1 John 1:7-8**).



2. Washing of Hands

The leader dips his hands in a washbasin and wipes his hands on the towel.

Explain: Jewish families remember how the priest washed in the basin before he could come before God on behalf of Israel (**Exodus 30:17-21**). That ritual pointed to Jesus, who washes away our guilty conscience so that we can draw near to God (**Hebrews 10:22**). This symbol of cleansing also provides insight concerning Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet at His Passover Seder (**John 13:1-17**).

6. The Second Cup: The Cup of Plagues



Everyone fills the cup a second time.

Explain: This is the cup of plagues. God poured out 10 plagues on Egypt in order to show His strength and deliver the nation of Israel. Thank God that He delivered Israel and He delivers us.

Next, each person dips a spoon into his cup, then makes 10 drops of wine fall onto his plate as he says the name of each plague: blood, frogs, lice, flies, cattle disease, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and slaying of the firstborn. Finally, each person drinks from his cup.



3. Dipping of the Parsley

Everyone dips parsley in the salt water, one sprig at a time.

Explain: The first dip symbolizes the tears shed by the Israelites while they were enslaved; the second dip symbolizes the drowning of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea and the miraculous deliverance that came for the nation of Israel (**Exodus 14:13-31**). In the New Testament, the apostle Paul compares the crossing of the Red Sea to baptism, which symbolizes our redemption from sin (**1 Corinthians 10:1-2**).



4. Breaking of the Middle Matzah

The leader takes the middle square from a stack of three matzah, breaks it in half, puts one half back in the middle of the stack and wraps the other half in a napkin. Now the leader hides the middle half of matzah as the rest of the family closes their eyes.

Explain: We can see the beautiful picture of the Trinity in the matzah—the top piece representing the Father; the bottom piece representing the Holy Spirit; and the middle piece representing Jesus, who was broken for us and then wrapped in linen to be hidden away (**Mark 15:46**).



8. Eating of the Charoset

Each person enjoys a piece of matzah with a little charoset.

Explain: This mixture symbolizes the mortar, the cement that holds bricks together, that the Israelites used while enslaved in Egypt. This sweet mixture represents bitter toil because even harsh labor is sweetened by the promise of redemption. We know that it was through Christ's bitter suffering that the sweetness of redemption also came to us (**Hebrews 2:9-10**).

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Ingredients of the Seder Supper

(Continued)

9. Sharing of the Charoset



Everyone takes another piece of matzah with charoset and feeds it to the person on his right, saying, "Shalom, peace to you."

Explain: When Jesus brought sweetness into our lives through His forgiveness, He never intended for us to keep it to ourselves. As we feed each other the charoset, we are showing that we want to pass this sweet message on to others (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

13. The Third Cup: The Cup of Redemption

Everyone fills the cup a third time.



Explain: redemption. The word *redemption* suggests the idea of a price being paid to bring someone out of slavery. The sacrificial lamb offered on Passover paid the price to deliver the nation of Israel from the bondage of Egypt. We know that Jesus drank with His disciples and declared, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (**Matthew 26:27-28**). Drink the third cup in remembrance of Jesus.

10. Explanation of the Egg



The leader picks up the egg.

Explain: The egg is a reminder that because the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70, the Jews were no longer able to sacrifice. The egg is referred to as the Hagigah, the holiday sacrifice that was made during temple times. We are also reminded that Jesus was the final sacrifice that took away sin once and for all (**Hebrews 10:1-18**).

14. Looking for Elijah

As the ceremony draws to a close, one of the children goes to the door and peeks his head out to see if Elijah is coming. "Is Elijah there?" the leader asks. "No, he is not here," the child says. "Maybe next year Elijah will come!" the leader replies.

Explain: According to **Malachi 4:5-6**, the Jewish people know that Elijah will prepare the way for the Messiah. When they ask if Elijah is coming, they are actually proclaiming that they are waiting for the Messiah. We recognize that John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord more than 2,000 years ago (**Luke 1:13-17**).



11. The Eating of the Meal

Your family can now eat a full meal to recreate the meal that took place in **Exodus 12**. (Seder menus may vary, including items such as roasted lamb and potatoes, matzo ball soup and sponge cake. Research online to create your own Passover meal.)

12. Finding and Eating of the Afikomen



The Afikomen ("ah-fee-koe-men") is the piece of matzah that was hidden earlier. It's time to play a fun game as you send all the kids on a hunt to look for the hidden matzah. Whoever finds the piece gets a token reward—a ransom is paid for the Afikomen. When found, the Afikomen is broken in pieces and distributed to everyone.

Explain: Jesus himself used matzah as a picture of His sacrifice when He broke the bread during the Last Supper and said, "This is my body given for you" (**Luke 22:19, NIV**).

15. The Fourth Cup: The Cup of Praise



Everyone fills the cup a fourth time.

Explain: This final cup is a reminder of God's promise to Israel (**Exodus 6:7, NIV**) "take you as my own people." The Jewish people look forward to a golden age when everyone will be at peace and will be reunited with God. In Jewish homes, it is traditional to close with "Next Year in Jerusalem," a further indication of their waiting for Messiah. As followers of Jesus, we, too, have been chosen by God to be His people, and we eagerly wait for the return of the Messiah so that we will be with Him forever (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**)

with the Passover ceremony finished, let us drink the fourth cup, proclaiming, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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The Last Supper

On the night of Jesus' final Passover, He knew it would also be the night He would be taken from His disciples to ultimately die on the cross and pay the final price for our sins. That night, Jesus gave new instructions that we now call Communion. (Matthew 26:26-28)

Here are some similarities and differences between Passover and Communion for you to think about:

Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread	Jesus' Communion
God makes "I will" statements to remind Moses and the Israelites who He is and His plan to deliver them from slavery. (Exodus 6:6-7).	Jesus washes the disciples' feet to show why He came, who He is, and to set an example of humility for His followers. (John 13:4-8).
A perfect, unblemished lamb must be sacrificed.	Jesus, who is without sin, must take on our sins and sacrifice himself by dying on the cross.
The Israelites covered the doorpost of their homes with the blood of a lamb as a sign that they believed and followed God's instructions.	Blood of Jesus covers those who believe in Him as their Lord and Savior.
Passover is remembered in part by eating bread without yeast (sometimes also called unleavened bread). This symbolizes how the Israelites fled from slavery quickly.	Jesus breaks the unleavened bread to symbolize His body broken for us. Jesus poured the wine as a symbol of the blood he shed for us.
God commands the Israelites to remember their freedom from slavery while in Egypt every year.	Jesus commands us to remember His sacrifice on the cross and that His body was broken and His blood was shed for our freedom from sin.

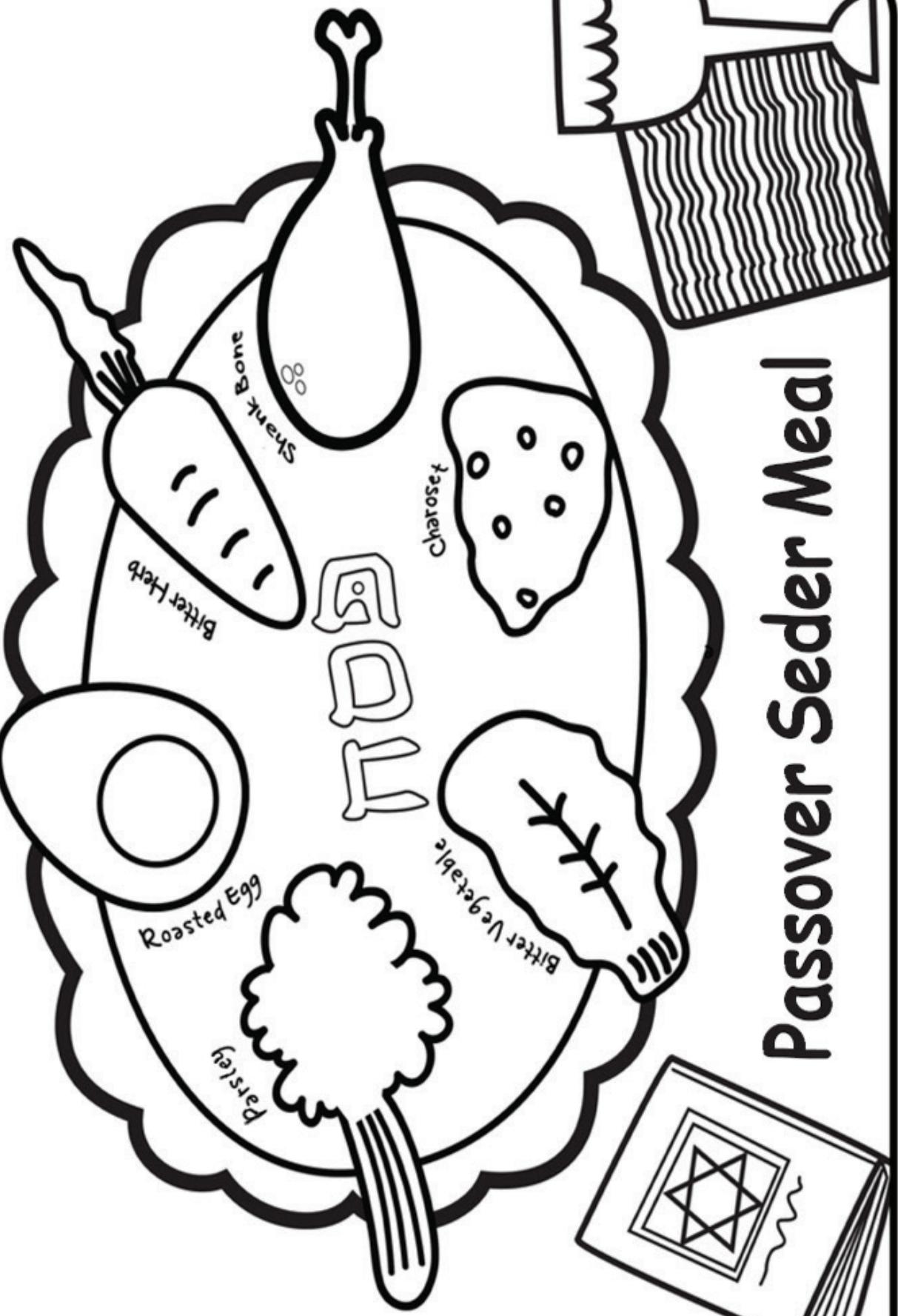
Jesus transformed the Passover of the Old Testament into a time for all of His children to remember His sacrifice.

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (I Corinthians 11:26)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

(John 3:16)

HAPPY PASSOVER



Passover Seder Meal