



Passover

A GUIDE TO A SIMPLE SEDER

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

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A Peaceful Passover: A Guide to a Simple Seder
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Passover Guide

A FAMILY GUIDE TO PASSOVER

Don't let Passover pass you by. Sundown on April 17th, 2025 marks the beginning of Passover (Pesach in Hebrew), the Jewish celebration of their redemption from Egypt. The Israelites had to sacrifice a lamb and spread its blood on the doorposts of their homes so the angel of death would pass over them. It is one of three festivals which requires all of Israel to travel to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate. It is celebrated with a special feast called a Seder; special sabbath days when no work is to be performed; and an elimination of leaven (chametz in Hebrew) from the home.

Our family loves to celebrate the Passover, for us it is a celebration of Jesus Christ our Passover Lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world and he was crucified on Passover. It is a time to examine ourselves and eliminate sin (leaven) in our lives, and to acknowledge the truth that we can rest from all our works because Jesus is our Sabbath Rest.

Passover is a beautiful picture of God's protection and provision for his people in the midst of trials and tribulations. What a wonderful opportunity we have, with all that is going on in the world right now, to set the table with our best china and have a party; to share with our families the goodness of God. We have included an outline for a simple Seder for you and your family to enjoy this Passover season.

Passover Guide

S U P P L Y L I S T

Kitchen / Grocery

- Lamb Shank
- Horseradish
- Parsley or Celery
- Grape Juice or Wine
- Apples or Dates
- Raisins
- Walnuts or almonds
- Honey
- Matzah
- Seder Plate (any large plate)
- A Favorite Dessert

Household

- Cloth/napkin
- Candles
- Bible
- A Gift

Suggested Reading

- *The Passover Lamb* by Linda Elovitz Marshall
- *The Longest Night* by Catia Chien Laurel Snyder
- *The Exodus* by Brian Wildsmith
- *The Story of Passover* by David Adler

Preparation for the Seder

ONE WEEK AHEAD

- Read Exodus 1-12
- Read Matthew 14-16
- Read picture books about Passover

ONE DAY AHEAD

- Purchase your supplies
- Clean your home of leaven (remove any products with yeast)
- Stew a lamb bone until it is clean
- Print Seder Script

PASSOVER DAY

- Set the table with fine dishes, wine glasses, and candles
- Prepare the meal
- Prepare the Seder elements

The Seder Elements

Seder Plate: The Seder plate is a display of the special elements of the Seder. On it you will place a lamb bone, haroset, bitter herbs, and washed parsley.

Lamb Bone: For the lamb bone, we stew a lamb bone until it is clean and fully cooked. You can use the broth for healthy bone broth.

Bitter Herbs: For the bitter herbs, which represent the slavery of the Israelites, we use any type of prepared horseradish.

Salt Water: You will need several small bowls of salt water for dipping the parsley as representation of the tears shed by the Israelites.

Charoset: Charoset is a simple mixture of chopped apples, raisins, honey, grape juice, and chopped walnuts. If you prefer you can substitute dates for the apples and almonds for the walnuts. You can chop it by hand or in a food processor. It represents the mortar used by the Israelites in the making of bricks.

Matzah: You will also have a separate plate with three pieces of matzah on it and a cloth to cover it.

Grape Juice or Wine: We use grape juice for the children and it represents the blood of Jesus, our perfect Passover lamb.

The Menu

Our typical menu for Passover is roast lamb, roasted potatoes and carrots, and a salad. In reality any meal will work; a roast in a crock pot with carrots and potatoes is a simple solution, or a roast chicken. We do try to keep it “kosher” for this meal; to us that means no pork or anything else considered unclean in the Old Testament law. We also try to avoid anything with leaven (yeast).

There should be haroset and bitter herbs on the table for use during dinner and some small bowls filled with salt water for dipping. You will need a glass for toasting as well as your regular glasses.

The Meal

Our Seder has three parts;

1. Ceremonial Observance
2. Dinner
3. Second half of the ceremonial observance

During the Seder there are four questions which will be asked by children from youngest to oldest. They are marked as such. There are also blessings and words that are said by a Seder leader, which are marked as “leader.”

PART 1: THE CEREMONIAL OBSERVANCE

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Traditionally the mother will say a blessing, then light the candles.

“Blessed are you Lord God, creator of heaven and earth. I bless your holy name and this time of remembrance and celebration. Thank you for Jesus our Passover Lamb, our Savior, our Redeemer. He has taken away our sins so we can rest from all of our work. He is the light of the world that lights every man that comes into the world; let His light shine through us.”

Light the candles.

THE FIRST CUP

When we pour each cup, we drain the cup, so pour accordingly.

Leader: “Tonight we will drink the fruit of the vine four times; the first cup is the cup of Salvation, the second cup is the cup of Wrath or Judgement, the third cup is the cup of Blessing or Redemption, the fourth cup is the cup of the Kingdom. Please stand and join me in the blessing of the first cup.

Blessed are you Lord, creator of the fruit of the vine. Lord you have set us apart, sanctified us, made us your own. You have brought us out of bondage and set us free. We will drink this cup while leaning or reclining to the left symbolizing freedom.”

Everyone sits and reclines to the left.

Leader: “We are sanctified through His Blood”

Everyone drinks their glass of grape juice. Leave your cups empty.

QUESTION 1:

Child: “Why are we eating unleavened bread tonight?”

Leader: “We are eating bread without leaven tonight to remember that the Israelites had to flee quickly from Egypt and could not wait for their bread to rise.

(Leader holds up a piece of matzah)

Leader: When we look at the matzah we also think about Jesus; the bread he broke at the last supper was the matzah of the Passover. The matzah also has stripes and is pierced which symbolizes that “He was pierced for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). Leaven or yeast is also a symbol of sin in the Bible; and tonight we remember that Jesus was without sin and He bore our sins for us.”

The Matzah and the Afikomen:

(Leader points to a plate with three whole matzahs covered by a cloth.)

Leader: “These three Matzahs represent the Trinity; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus, the Son, laid down His divinity, came to earth, and was broken for us.”

(The leader breaks the middle matzah roughly in half while saying)

Leader: “This is His body which is given for us.”

(The leader takes the larger piece and wraps it in the napkin; this is the Afikomen.)

Leader: “Just as Jesus was wrapped in burial clothes and laid in a tomb for three days and nights we have wrapped His broken body and we will lay it to rest.”

(Have the children close their eyes while the leader hides the Afikomen somewhere in the house.)

QUESTION 2:

Child: “Why do we eat bitter herbs tonight?”

Leader: “Remember in the story of the Exodus God commanded the Israelites to eat bitter herbs with their meal on the night of the Passover. It was to remind them of the bitterness of being a slave; and we are reminded of the bitterness of our bondage to sin.”

(The leader will now break off a piece of Matzah while repeating)

Leader: “He was broken for me.”

(The leader passes the Matzah and instructs each person to break a piece off while saying)

Leader: “He was broken for me”

(When everyone has a piece of Matzah, dip them in the bitter herbs and take a bite. You may want to have water on the table to wash it down and instruct young children to eat just a little as it is spicy.)

QUESTION 3:

Child: “Why do we dip our vegetables twice tonight?”

Leader: “We dip them once in salt water to remember the tears the Israelites shed as slaves in Egypt and our own tears that were shed over the sin in our life; and we dip them in the charoset, which represents the mortar the Israelites used for building during their slavery in Egypt, and we remember the hope we have in building a new life in Christ.”

(All dip their celery or parsley in the salt water and take a bite. Then all dip their celery or parsley in the charoset and take a bite.)

QUESTION 4:

Child: “Why are we reclining during the meal?”

Leader: “We are reclining because we are free. Jesus and His disciples reclined at the last supper and we recline because He has redeemed us from the curse of the law.”

THE LAMB BONE:

Leader: “The last symbol on our plate is the lamb bone. It represents the lamb that was slain on the first Passover, and Jesus, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Leader: *Read Exodus 12 from a physical Bible (a Bible app can do in a pinch).*

THE SECOND CUP:

Leader: *(Holds up his empty cup and has everyone else do the same.)*

“This is the cup of Judgement. In Matthew 26:39 Jesus prayed “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.” That cup was the cup of Judgement. God’s judgement and wrath were poured out on Jesus. He drank of the cup of Judgement so we would not have to.”

(Pause for a moment of silence.)

PART 2: THE DINNER

Say a blessing and enjoy your meal; don’t forget this is a festival!

PART 3: SECOND HALF OF CEREMONIAL OBSERVANCE

HUNT FOR THE AFIKOMEN:

Leader: “Now that we have finished dinner it’s time to finish our Seder. Let’s start by finding the Afikomen. Whoever finds the Afikomen can bring it to me for redemption.”

(The children will search for the Afikomen. Whoever finds the Afikomen can exchange it for a gift.)

THE THIRD CUP:

(Pour the third cup.)

Leader: “Now we will drink the third cup, the cup of Redemption. The cup of Redemption represents Jesus’ blood, the “blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matt 26:28). Just like I redeemed the Afikomen, God redeemed us with the blood of Jesus Christ.”

All: *(Drink the cup while saying)* “I am redeemed”

THE FOURTH CUP:

(Pour the fourth cup.)

Leader: “The fourth cup is the cup of the Kingdom. We drink it to celebrate that He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son.” Everyone raises their glass and toasts, “Next year in Jerusalem”

Sing a hymn. *(Nothing But The Blood can be found on the next page)*

Your Seder is over. Enjoy your favorite dessert!

Hymn: Nothing But The Blood

1 What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:

O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

2 For my pardon this I see:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea:
nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

3 Nothing can for sin atone:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done:
nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

4 This is all my hope and peace:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]