

March 2022



SEDER SYMBOLISM

Seeing and Celebrating Christ in the Passover Meal



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HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

Seder is the traditional Passover Meal that calls the Jewish people to remember the story of Exodus, how God delivered His people from slavery under the Egyptians. There are 15 steps to the meal with scripture, songs, stories, questions, and symbolic foods placed on the Seder Plate. A hard-boiled egg, parsley, salt water, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, charoset, lamb bone, and cups of wine adorn the table as reminders of the bitterness of slavery, the haste in which the Israelites fled, sacrifice, life, God's promise of deliverance, God's promise to redeem with an outstretched arm, etc. As Christians, we know that all of these symbols of promise find their yes and amen in Jesus Christ, our perfect example, fulfillment, atonement, and power.

This Lent season, we desire to take a closer look at the symbolism of the Seder to see and celebrate the work of our Savior. Each week the devotion will focus on one of the symbolic elements of the Seder to point you to Christ and help you dig deeper into how this truth should shape our lives.

The last section of the devotion is a guide to help you host your own Passover meal. We would encourage you to commit to setting aside one evening during Lent to host a meal to slow down, gather together, remember, and celebrate our King Jesus, the true Passover Lamb. Invite family, friends, plan it as a CG, invite neighbors, individuals from your One Place, etc.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



On the front cover, we included the Hebrew word for Passover, Pesach, which means "passing over." It commemorates the Israelites' freedom from Egypt, specifically God's sparing of the firstborn.

Exodus 12:27 "...It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt when he struck down the Egyptians but spared our houses. And the people bowed their heads and worshipped."

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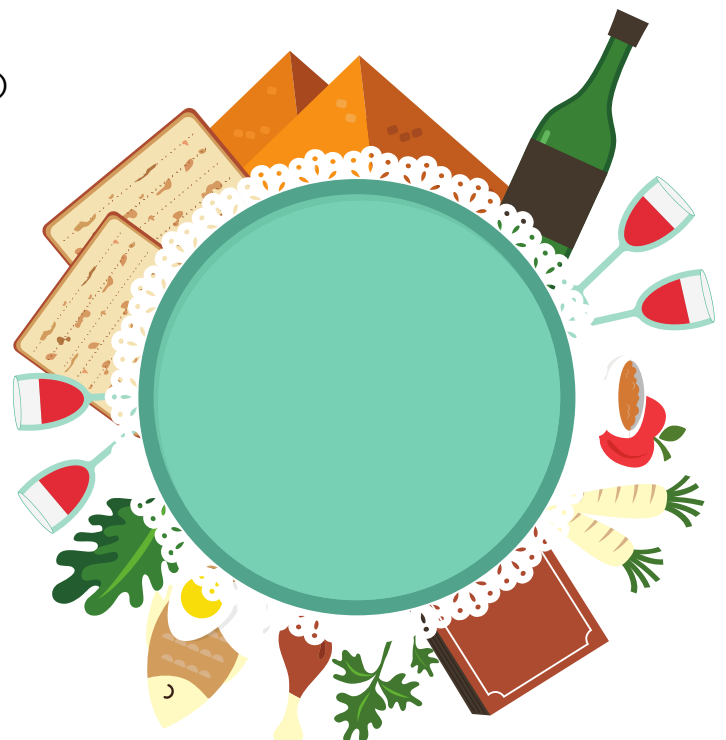
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THE PROMISE OF PASSOVER

Week 1

READING

- Exodus 12:21-23/ Isaiah 53:7/ Luke 22:14-20
- John 1:29/ Romans 3:23-26/ 1 Peter 1:18-19/ Hebrews 11:24-28



DEVOTIONAL

As we read in Romans 3, "we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God," sin demands payment, and the more we sin, the more God calls for justice. Passover was something implemented by God as a means of Grace. The Israelites, just like the Egyptians, were sinners who deserved God's wrath, yet rather than punishing them with death, God created a way of escape for the Israelites, which was by the death of another, a lamb without blemish. And as we saw in Hebrews 11, this was done by faith. By faith, they took and ate, and God rewarded them, not for their eating but for their believing. The Passover lamb served two purposes: 1) For consumption, or eating, which is a sign of God's provision for His people, and 2) For the covering over the doorpost and lintel of the house, which is a sign of God's protection over His people.

As we will see throughout this devotional, Christ is the greater Passover lamb who "takes away the sin of the world," and the reason we, as modern American Christians, still observe Passover is because Jesus did as well. Christ instituted a greater Passover that His people are now to do "in remembrance of Him," The Lord's Supper. And in the Lord's Supper, we find the same symbolism of consumption and covering, or provision and protection. We take and eat of the bread and wine as a sign of our faith in Christ, and what is the faith that we are testifying when we eat? That God has covered us in the blood of Christ, and therefore death has been averted, and life has been offered. This has come not by the blood of bulls and goats but "with the precious blood of Christ." Therefore, let us remember, as the great hymn says, "What can wash away our sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make us whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh precious is the flow that makes us white as snow, no other fount I know... nothing but the blood of Jesus."

Let us remember in this Lent season that we do not do these things to earn God's favor or to attain another ounce of righteousness. That is not the purpose of Passover. Yet, may our hearts be filled with joy and praise that God has provided a Lamb so perfect that no other sacrifice is needed, and by the death of Christ, we live. Just as the Israelites took joy in Passover, may we also take joy in the Lord's Supper, for in it, we remember that God passed over our sins on account of another who paid our debt for us.

"The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon Himself the death that He found in us, He has most faithfully promised to give us life in Him, such as we cannot have of ourselves." - St. Augustine

THE PROMISE OF PASSOVER

Week 1

DIVING DEEPER

- Let us sit in the weight of our sin and be reminded of the judgment we deserve, death and separation from God. Then allow our focus to be directed at Christ, our Passover Lamb, who removed the wrath of God on our behalf, and by His death, we now have the Father telling us, "Well done."
- When was the last time you thanked Christ for removing God's anger and wrath over your life?
- Do you find joy in taking the Lord's Supper?
- How have your affections for God grown as you have seen His promises in the Old Testament fulfilled in Christ? (2 Corinthians 1:20)

PRAYER

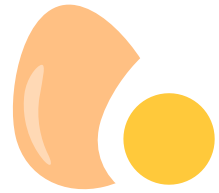
We are so much like the Israelites; sinful, disobedient, and rebellious, yet God put Christ forward as a propitiation, by His blood to be received by faith. May we not look to our faults, failures, guilt, or shame, but may we look at the cross where God's Passover Lamb took our sins and gave us His righteousness. May we confess that we are washed in His blood, and by His wounds, we are healed.

THE HARD-BOILED EGG

Week 2

READING

- Psalm 103:12 & 130:3/ Jeremiah 17:9
- Romans 5:20/ 2 Peter 3:9 / Hebrews 10:11-14



DEVOTIONAL

The egg (beitza) was a festival offering (or Hagigah), meant to represent the sacrifice offered during Passover when the temple was standing. But, since the destruction of the temple, the egg has taken the symbol of mourning. So, how should we view the egg at our Passover Seder? Here are three simple ways to view the hard-boiled egg at our Seder meal:

- It represents our sinfulness: Just as often as a chicken lays an egg, so is our sinful nature. John Calvin, Pastor and Theologian from Geneva, once said that "The human heart is a perpetual idol factory," and as sinners, we may see the truth of that every day. The psalmist understood this well when he wrote, "If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?" (Psalm 130:3). We constantly are searching after other "gods" to meet our needs, bring us happiness, or give us a sense of completion. But, we soon find that no one and nothing can actually fill the God-shaped void we have in our hearts. We find ourselves chasing after the wind, and in the end, we find ourselves tired, hopeless, and helpless.
- It represents God's faithfulness: As we all know, one major characteristic of all eggs is their round shape. This can symbolize God's constant faithfulness to His people. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans "...where sin abounded grace abounded much more." God's grace never runs dry. He is always willing to forgive, "not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). The symbol of a circle (or an oval) shaped egg is meant to represent God's ongoing covenant with His people.
- It represents God's sacrifice: As mentioned before, the egg was meant to represent the sacrifice offered when the temple was standing, yet we know that Christ has become our greater sacrifice. "And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His Spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook, and the rocks were split" (Matt 27:50-51). The tearing of the veil from top to bottom was to show that God has made a way into the Most Holy Place. By the sacrifice of Christ, we now have a means of entering the throne room of grace forevermore, for all eternity. As the egg is meant to symbolize an offering, may we recall the great offering God did on our behalf when He offered up His Son for our sins.

THE HARD-BOILED EGG

Week 2

DIVING DEEPER

- Do you find yourself trusting in your sacrifices to please God or in Christ's sacrifice to please God?
- How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?
- Do you ever view your sin as offensive to God, or have you grown dull to the idol factory in your heart?

PRAYER

Lord, we are thankful for the priceless sacrifice that was offered up at Calvary. We confess that we sin daily against you, yet we are thankful that you are a gracious and merciful God; not looking at our sins but rather Christ righteousness on our behalf.

THE WINE

Week 3

READING

- Exodus 6:6-8/ Isaiah 9:6
- Colossians 1:13/ Galatians 3:13-14/ John 17:11-13/ 2 Corinthians 1:20-22



DEVOTIONAL

The four wines are said to point to the promise that God made to the Israelites when He took them out of the land of Egypt.

Christ as our Deliverer: "I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians and I will deliver you."

- Just like the Israelites were under the weight and burden of the Egyptians, so were we under the dominion of sin and death. Yet, God "has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Colossians 2:23). And by doing so, the scripture has been fulfilled. "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

Christ as our Redeemer: "I will redeem you with an outstretched arm."

- To redeem means to buy back, whether as a purchase or a ransom; and on the cross, Christ became our ransom. He took upon Himself the judgment that we deserved, "for even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Jesus' obedience to the Father was to atone for our lack of obedience. As the Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body."

Christ as our Father: "I will take you to be my people and I will be your God."

- Jesus, in John 17:9-10 says, "I am praying for them, I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine and I am glorified in them." In Christ, we have become His Church, His Bride, and His people, and He has become our God. As we look to Jesus, may we be reminded that He is the head of The Body, The Church, and as He is Holy so also shall we be.

Christ our Promise Keeper: "I will bring you into the land that I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

- In Christ, all of God's promises are yes and amen, even this one. We have been given the land that God swore to Abraham, yet, as we see in Hebrews 11: 9-10 "By faith he [Abraham] went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God." Through faith, Abraham saw that the promised land was not a place in the here and now, but a place that will soon come; a place with a "great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and palms in their hands." (Revelation 7:9)

THE WINE

Week 3

DIVING DEEPER

- This week, allow the truth of Christ as your Deliverer, Redeemer, Father & Promise Keeper to bring you joy and comfort.
- Do you find yourself longing for an earthly promise land (earthly possessions), or do you long for God's heavenly promise land?

PRAYER

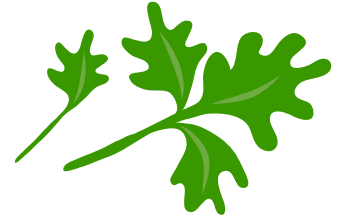
Lord, may we find our identity in you so that we may not wander aimlessly as the Israelites in the desert but find comfort and rest in Christ and Christ alone. May we look to you as the refuge, the promise, and the Father we have longed for. Allow us to be thankful for the joy and comfort your Spirit brings to our hearts, and help us see you move in our everyday lives. Thank you for the price you paid to bring salvation to your Church.

THE PARSLEY

Week 4

READING

- Exodus 12:22
- John 3:14-15/ Revelation 21:4



DEVOTIONAL

Karpas (Hebrew for “greens”) are most often presented as parsley on the Seder plate – a vibrant symbol of life. However, before the greens are eaten, they are dipped in saltwater – recalling a life without redemption, immersed in the tears of oppression.

This seems like an apt reminder of all that Israel endured in the land of Egypt - 430 years of harsh servitude spent crying out to God for help. Until the LORD made known the way of their exemption: a bushy green plant, called hyssop, dipped in the blood of a spotless lamb. After painting their doorframes, those faithful to obey God looked forward with hope to a life beyond their present persecution.

But we learn through the tumultuous story of Israel that new life will not be granted on obedience alone; it requires repentance. And, the payment for our spiritual debt requires much more than the sacrifice of animals; it requires our Savior’s blood. Israel may have been freed physically, but they would continue to suffer in bondage to their disobedience and sin, longing for complete salvation.

Before His final breath, arms and feet nailed to the cross, Jesus took of the sour wine extended upon the hyssop branch. That same bushy plant raised up in the midst of our redemption, and this time the promise was so much greater: “Because I live, you also will live.” (John 14:19)

THE PARSLEY

Week 4

DIVING DEEPER

- What does it mean that Jesus offers us life? How should this change the way we walk through difficult circumstances?
- In Jesus, we have forgiveness of our past, present, and future sins. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything (thoughts, actions) that keep you from applying this promise to your life.

PRAYER

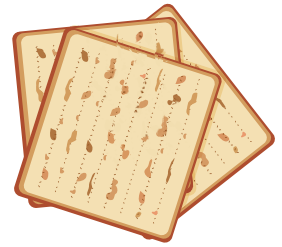
Father, we praise you for your immeasurable mercy and grace. And, we thank you for the Life we have in your Son, for the freedom found in His redemption through the forgiveness of our sins. In Jesus's precious name, we pray, amen.

THE MATZAH

Week 5

READING

- Exodus 12:8, 15
- 1 Corinthians 11:24/ 1 John 1:7



DEVOTIONAL

Unleavened bread, known as "matzah," plays a vital role in the traditional Seder meal. Three pieces of flatbread are placed in a special bag called the matzah tosh. The second piece (the afikomen) is removed from the bag, broken in two, wrapped in cloth, and hidden until the end of the meal when it is revealed and shared with everyone at the table.

At the very first Passover, God commanded the Israelites to eat the sacrificial lamb with unleavened bread. Later He would demand they remove all leaven from their house for seven days during the annual feast – a symbolic removal of sin from their lives. It becomes clear throughout the bible that leaven is often a picture of the corrosive nature of sin and therefore kept away from the holy places. In fact, Paul urges Corinth not to tolerate sin, or it would likewise permeate the church. The repeated reminders should leave us with a heaviness for the pervasiveness of sin and a desire to live a life set apart, holy.

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life; He is the Holy One, the embodiment of God's command to live set apart. His body was broken while taking on the judgment due to our sin. Wrapped in linen and buried, only to rise again on the third day. He now freely extends victory over sin and death to all who believe in His name.

At the Last Supper (the Seder meal), Jesus took this very bread and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19)

THE MATZAH

Week 5

DIVING DEEPER

- What does it mean to live a life set apart? How do we see Jesus live out holiness in His life?
- How does the tradition of breaking the Matzah impact your understanding and appreciation for the sacrament of communion?

PRAYER

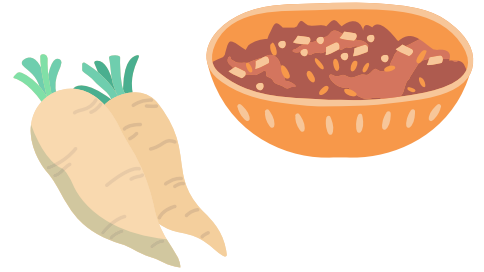
Holy Spirit, remind us that our old self has been crucified with Jesus so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin but set free, brought from death to life. Please help us to walk boldly in this victory. In Jesus's name, amen.

THE HORSERADISH & CHAROSET

Week 6

READING

- Exodus 12:8/ Exodus 1:8-14
- James 1:2-4/ Romans, 8:28/ Hebrews 12:10/ John 14:3



DEVOTIONAL

Horseradish, the bitter herbs or maror, were commanded to be eaten during the Passover meal according to Exodus 12:8. These herbs are intended to be a reminder of the bitterness of slavery. The charoset represents the mortar the Israelites were forced to use to construct buildings for the Egyptians. Before consuming the bitter herbs during the meal, they must first be dipped into the charoset.

The charoset is a mixture of nuts, wine, apples, and spices and is the only sweet element in the Seder. By dipping the bitter herbs into the charoset, we remember that even in the most bitter of circumstances, there is the hope of redemption found only in Christ.

We are privileged to have never endured slavery as the Israelites did, but we have endured trials of various kinds. We have seen the havoc and destruction brought about by sin in our lives, in our loved ones, and in the world around us. Things are broken, and because of that, we experience heartache, loss, anger, frustration, anxiety, you name it. We know deep within us that things are not the way they are supposed to be. We were made for something more, something greater that we just can't seem to obtain.

The Israelites have been enslaved for generation after generation. All seemed lost when Moses entered the scene to plead before Pharaoh and lead them out of Egypt towards something greater. A land flowing with milk and honey where they could be with their God and freely worship. Jesus is our better Moses. We who were enslaved, generation after generation to sin and death, now have a better leader. Jesus did more than plead for us. He gave his life in place of ours to purchase our freedom. He not only leads us to a better place but works sanctification in us, redemption, and restoration around us along the way. The trials we go through and the heartache we experience are no longer in vain.

Christ is our something more. He is with us and goes before us to lead the way home. Remember today is goodness and steadfast love. Remember what he has led you out of, and trust He will continue to lead you onward. Remember the bitterness and brokenness, but holdfast to the sweet hope found in our loving Savior.

THE HORSERADISH & CHAROSET

Week 6

DIVING DEEPER

- Recall a time when God has delivered you and led you out of sin. Write down the change brought about by the freedom He granted you. Praise Him for this gift you could not obtain on your own.
- How do we live in the already but not yet of Christ's redemptive work in the world?
- What does it look like for you to count it all joy when experiencing trials?
- What in your life is currently "bitter" that can be made sweet by our Savior?

PRAYER

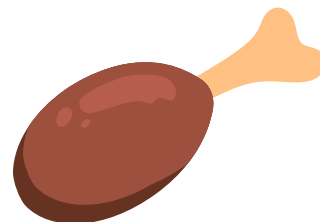
Lord, we thank you for the freedom you purchased for us. We thank you that when trials come, we can rest in you and trust in the hope of redemption. Please help us find comfort and confidence in knowing that you are making us more like you each day. Everything we experience does not have to be in vain but can bring you glory and allow us the opportunity to experience your love. Help us hold steadfast till you return or call us home. In Christ's name, Amen.

THE SHANK BONE

Week 7

READING

- Exodus 12:3, 5
- 1 Corinthians 5:7/ Romans 3:25



DEVOTIONAL

We've made it to the grand finale, the main course of the Seder feast: the shank bone. In Hebrew, we read "zeroa," which also means "arm,"; recalling both the Passover lamb and the LORD's promise to redeem Israel by the power of His outstretched arm (Exodus 6:6). At the pinnacle of the Exodus story, nine plagues had swept through the land, ravaging Egypt. Faithful to His word, God instructed them to take a one-year-old male lamb without blemish or broken bone, kill it, consume it, and use its blood to signify their consecration to Him and justify life.

The Bible tells us "... the wages of sin is death," and it takes only a quick glance within or around to see that sin is the greatest plague wreaking havoc in our land and producing death in our hearts.

On our own, we are without hope and condemned, in need of divine intervention, "but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Peter 1:19), we are miraculously counted as righteous. Where death is certain, Jesus, the Lamb of God, takes our place; on whom His blood is found, the destroyer cannot strike.

"Worthy is the Lamb, who shed His precious blood
To restore a world to happiness and God;
When no eye could pity and no arm could save,
Jesus for our ransom, Himself freely gave."

- Johnson Oatman, Jr.

THE SHANK BONE

Week 7

DIVING DEEPER

- Jesus is the perfect and final payment for our sins, so we no longer sacrifice animals to be made right before God. But, consider ways to still remember & praise Jesus for His atonement daily.
- The book of Revelation refers to Jesus as our Lamb 27 times! This is very good news for those covered in His blood and awaiting His complete victory over sin and death. How is this good news for you today?

PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for being our sacrificial Lamb. The only one worthy to atone for our sin and redeem us from the pit. Worthy are You for honor and glory and blessing, forever. Amen!

HOSTING THE PASSOVER MEAL

- WHY HOLD A SEDER?
- WHAT TO EXPECT
- INVOLVING KIDS
- PREPARE (RECIPES INCLUDED)
- STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE
 - THE CEREMONIAL PASSOVER MEAL



HOSTING THE PASSOVER MEAL

WHY HOLD A SEDER MEAL?

Hosting a Passover Seder can seem overwhelming for those of us who have not grown up learning its intricacies and steps around our family dinner table. As believers in Christ, we are not obligated to observe the Mosaic Laws of the Old Testament. This Lenten season though, we are excited to highlight the Passover meal as a church body to quiet our minds, connect with our neighbors and worship our Lord and Savior.

- **Slow Down** – The Passover meal is long to prepare and long to experience. (There are fifteen steps to follow in a traditional Seder and a whole lot of reading and reciting.) It does not fit the common pace of our lives but demands that we slow down, plan ahead, and gather around the goodness of God.
- **Gather** – The night before Jesus's crucifixion, he gathered one last time with his disciples to partake in a Seder, what we have come to know as the Lord's Supper. He used the elements to point them to himself, which we will read about tonight.
- **Remember** – The theme of the evening is to remember. Remember specifically how God brought the Israelites out of slavery to the Egyptians and conversely, how God brought us, you, out of slavery to sin. Additionally, we have been studying the symbolism of the individual elements of the Seder – how the elements point us to Christ. Let the symbolism of the evening remind you that the Bible is a complete work, telling one big story.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Traditionally, the host will provide a Haggadah, a guide for the evening, including the Scriptures that will be read and blessings that will be spoken. While we see the merit of experiencing a traditional Seder, our focus is on the redemptive work of Christ foreshadowed in the Passover meal, not on the specific liturgy followed by tradition today. The guide below does not contain the exhaustive blessings and responses that one will find in a Jewish home. We have paired the major elements of the Seder with scriptures, prayers, questions and answers, and conversation points that are intended to retain the spirit of a Seder and celebrate the full picture of our salvation

INVOLVING KIDS

Seder is made for kids! The Seder meal is introduced in scripture as a way to pass on the story of God's saving might from generation to generation. A traditional way to involve the children is to prompt them to ask the question: Why is this night different from all other nights? The questions specific to this guide are colored in [dark blue](#) below (though, feel free just to let the kids ask, what is this? and why? a lot).

You can also encourage them to pass the ceremonial food, find the hidden matzah after the meal, and read the exodus story from a children's Bible.

PREPARE

ORDER OF EVENTS

1. Open in prayer
2. Break the Matzah and eat the ceremonial elements
3. Retell the Passover story
4. Eat dinner
5. Enjoy sweet Matzah for dessert
6. Say grace after the meal
7. Praise God

YOU WILL NEED

A centerpiece plate with the Seder elements on display:

- Karpas (vegetable like parsley, celery, or radish)
- One hard-boiled egg
- [Charoset \(recipe linked here\)](#)
- Maror (bitter herbs, such as horseradish)
- A lamb shank bone

For each guest:

- A separate (small) glass for the ceremonial drink (wine, juice or even your favorite flavor of sparkling water. Something special that you can drink to follow the pace of the meal. We will use the term “wine” for simplicity in this guide.)
- This document printed if they would like to read along

For the ceremonial portions of the meal:

- Three pieces of matzah bread, stacked and loosely wrapped in a towel
- Bowl of saltwater for ceremonial dipping
- A Bible or this document to read scripture

A Suggested Dinner Menu (recipes linked)

- [Matzo ball soup](#)
- [Braised short ribs](#)
- Vegetarian Main: [Quiche with veggie crust](#)
- [Apple cider roasted root vegetables](#)
- [Little gem salad with tarragon Green Goddess](#)
- [Flourless chocolate walnut cookies](#)

THE CEREMONIAL PASSOVER MEAL

KADESH | OPENING PRAYER

POUR

Pour the first cup of wine (The Cup of Sanctification).

PRAY

Thank God for this evening of remembrance, that He has chosen us and sanctified us.

DRINK

Drink from the cup before moving on to Yachatz, breaking the matzah.

READ

Luke 22:14-18

"And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, 'I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, 'Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.'"

YACHATZ | BREAKING THE MATZAH

BREAK

Break the middle matzah and HIDE one of the broken halves. It is called the Afikomen and will be eaten later.

PRAY

God, we praise you for giving us your only Son, our source of true life. Thank you that Jesus's body was broken for us, that He died, was buried and raised from the dead, conquering the power of death on our behalf.

ASK

Why are we breaking the matzah?

ANSWER

Breaking the matzah reminds us of Jesus's body being broken for us on the cross. Like the matzah in a traditional Seder, which is broken, hidden and revealed at the end of the meal, Jesus's body was broken on the cross, buried in a tomb, and was raised to life three days later.

THE CEREMONIAL PASSOVER MEAL

YACHATZ | BREAKING THE MATZAH CONT.

READ

Luke 22:19

"And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

MAGGID | RETELLING THE PASSOVER STORY

REFILL

Refill everyone's cup of wine (The Cup of Deliverance).

DRINK

Drink from the cup during this section.

ASK

Why is this night different from all other nights?

ANSWER

Tonight, we remember the amazing things God has done. We're going to reflect on the story of God freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to remind ourselves how He set us free from slavery to sin through Jesus.

READ

The Exodus from Egypt

Exodus 6:2-8

"God spoke to Moses and said to him, 'I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, "I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'"

THE CEREMONIAL PASSOVER MEAL

MAGGID I RETELLING THE PASSOVER STORY CONT.

READ

The Lord made good on His promise. He sent 10 plagues on the Egyptians, each one highlighting God's sovereignty over the things for which the Egyptian gods were worshiped – the Nile River, fertility, life, health, etc. After Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go free nine times, God sent the final plague: the death of the firstborn son.

Exodus 12:21-42

"Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. And when your children say to you, "What do you mean by this service?" you shall say, "It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses." And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, 'Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!'

The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, 'We shall all be dead.' So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians."

THE CEREMONIAL PASSOVER MEAL

MAGGID I RETELLING THE PASSOVER STORY CONT.

CONT. READING

"And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations."

Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

EXPLAIN THE ELEMENTS

ASK

Why are we eating matzah tonight?

ANSWER

Everything on this table is meant to make us think of God. Matzah reminds us of the haste with which the Israelites were "thrust" out of Egypt. It reminds us of God's provision for the Israelites in the desert. It also points us to Jesus, who is called the Bread of Life.

READ

John 6:35

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.'"

TAKE & EAT

Ask everyone to eat a pinch of the UNHIDDEN broken matzah.

DISCUSS

What does Jesus mean that we will never hunger or thirst if we come to Him?

THE CEREMONIAL PASSOVER MEAL

MAGGID I RETELLING THE PASSOVER STORY CONT.

ASK

Why are we eating maror?

ANSWER

The Maror (bitter herbs) reminds us of the bitter service the Egyptians placed on the Israelites while the Israelites were enslaved. It also gives us a chance to celebrate the unmatched rest we find by trusting and following Jesus because of the atoning work he did on the cross.

READ

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

TAKE & EAT

Ask everyone to dip the maror from the centerpiece into the charoset and eat them together. It should still be bitter but sweetened.

DISCUSS

What has Jesus given you rest from? What do you want to rest from?

ASK

Why are we eating charoset?

ANSWER

The charoset symbolizes the mortar with which the Israelites were forced to work when they were enslaved in Egypt. The theme of bricks, stones, and building are found throughout the Bible. In the Old and New Testaments, Jesus is referred to as "the cornerstone" – the foundational stone to which all other stones are aligned (Isaiah 28:16, Ephesians 2:19-21, 1 Peter 2:4-10). In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul explains that all believers, like stones, are being built up together on the foundation of Christ into a temple for God.

THE CEREMONIAL PASSOVER MEAL

MAGGID | RETELLING THE PASSOVER STORY CONT.

READ

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

"As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.... you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

DISCUSS

Share a time in your life when you felt especially chosen.

SHULCHAN ORECH | FEAST

Eat and drink to your heart's content.

DISCUSS

Be intentional during this time to encourage the people around the table.
How did you see God's work in your life last year?

TZAFUN | EATING THE AFIKOMAN (THE HIDDEN MATZAH)

FIND

Find the hidden matzah and offer a piece to everyone to eat.

BERACH | GRACE AFTER THE MEAL

REFILL

Refill the wine cup for the third time and drink from it during the scripture readings (The Cup of Redemption)

THE CEREMONIAL PASSOVER MEAL

BERACH | GRACE AFTER THE MEAL CONT.

READ

Isaiah 44:21-23

"Remember these things, O Jacob,
and Israel, for you are my servant;
I formed you; you are my servant;
O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.
I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud
and your sins like mist;
return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it;
shout, O depths of the earth;
break forth into singing, O mountains,
O forest, and every tree in it!
For the LORD has redeemed Jacob,
and will be glorified in Israel."

Luke 22:20

"And likewise [he took] the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'"

REFILL

Refill the wine cup for the fourth (last) time and drink from it before beginning the Hallel.

OPEN

Open the front or back door of the house.

DISCUSS

Traditionally, Jewish children open the door at the end of the Seder to symbolically invite Elijah to their meal. They end the meal hopeful for Elijah to usher in the Messiah. How does this act of opening the door point us to Jesus, our Messiah and greater Elijah?

THE CEREMONIAL PASSOVER MEAL

HALLEL I PSALMS OF PRAISE

READ

Psalms 145:1-9, 21

"I exalt you, my God the King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
I will bless you every day;
I will praise your name forever and ever.
The Lord is great and is highly praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation will declare your works to the next
and will proclaim your mighty acts.
I will speak of your splendor and glorious majesty
and your wondrous works.
They will proclaim the power of your awe-inspiring acts,
and I will declare your greatness.
They will give a testimony of your great goodness
and will joyfully sing of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and great in faithful love.
The Lord is good to everyone;
his compassion rests on all he has made.
....
My mouth will declare the Lord's praise;
let every living thing
bless his holy name forever and ever." (CSB)

Matthew 26:30

"When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

PRAY

Pray to conclude the evening.