

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

SEDER EXPERIENCE



**Bringing the traditions of the Passover
to life for Christ-followers.**

This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

The Lord, Exodus 12:14

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

ABOUT THE PASSOVER

In the Old Testament, God established seven annual holidays for the Israelite people. The most important of these holidays was the Passover. This feast celebrates God's angel passing over their homes in the midst of God's master plan to free their ancestors from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 11 - 12). As their Egyptian captors suffered loss around them, the Israelites were protected from plague and death.

The Passover meal would be followed by seven sacred days referred to as the Feast of Unleavened Bread. During these seven days, the Israelites would remember God's amazing providence and be reminded of how He continued to work in their midst.

Christ-followers are not required to prepare a Passover meal or celebrate this feast; but what we discover in the New Testament texts is that this is because of an even greater passover that we have experienced. As a result of the sin and brokenness that we bring into this world, human beings are under a death sentence. In going to the cross, Jesus took that punishment as His own.

Where death ruled, now there is life.

Where sin condemned, now there is grace.

Where once we waited for divine judgement, now that judgement passes over us.

All this because of Jesus and the death and resurrection that He embraced for our sake. Shortly before His crucifixion, Jesus celebrated a Passover meal with His followers. During this last supper, He explained the fuller meaning of the passover and how it was ultimately fulfilled in Him (Matthew 26:17 - 30). From this point on, Christ-followers began the practice of Communion. Each week, we gather together to remember the passover that Jesus has given us.

At times, it is good to break out of our routine rhythms of worship to reflect on Jesus in some new way. That's what this booklet is all about: finding a new way to connect with Jesus by traversing the old way given to the Israelite people. Christ-followers can no longer authentically celebrate the Israelite Passover; but they can celebrate the work of Jesus through a revised and repurposed passover that highlights the truths we find in God's Word.

This booklet will act as a guide on the journey. To start, let's look at some important terms:

Seder is the Jewish term for the feast offered at the beginning of the Passover celebration. Throughout this guide, the term Seder is used to refer to the revised passover celebration you will be participating in.

Haggadah is the Jewish term for the text recited at a Seder meal. This booklet acts as your haggadah for this experience.

Holy Week is a common reference to the final week of Jesus' life on this earth. It begins with His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1 - 11) and ends with His resurrection from death (Matthew 28). Within this week, *Seder meals are practiced on the Thursday before Easter.*

USING THIS GUIDE

Before we get into the specifics of how to prepare for this celebration, there are several keys to using this guide:

Create Community

The Seder meal is meant to be practiced in community. We encourage you to invite friends, family and neighbors to be a part of this celebration.

Engage Others

The Seder meal is designed to lead towards participation (and this goes beyond simply eating together). Throughout this guide, you will find a variety of tags that can act as an invitation to participation:

Seder Leader: This tag is meant to be read aloud by the person acting as the host in this Seder meal.

Read It: This tag means this section is meant to be read aloud. Invite other participants to take part in reading these sections (having additional booklets available makes this more accessible).

Discuss It: This tag provides opportunities to ask responsive questions of other participants.

Family Activity: The reality is that small children may find a Seder meal challenging to sit through. This tag gives you an

optional activity to include to further invite children to participate (additional activities may be found in Extra Resources, p.32).

Before leading in a Seder experience, take time to read through the rest of this booklet to choose the content and activities you will be including.

PREPARATION

Take time to prepare your Seder meal in advance. Below is a list of the supplies you will need and the sections of the experience that they will be used in:

■ **The Table:** Seder experiences are often had with participants reclining on the floor around a low table. Pillows make this experience more comfortable (note: If the space or physical limitations impede this practice, meet around a standard dining room table).

■ **The Seder Plate (p.9):** Central to the Seder meal is a plate that includes the following items (note: these food items are meant to be sampled, not fill a belly):

- Lamb Shank Bone
- Roasted or Boiled Egg
- Fresh Parsley
- Kharoset (look online for a recipe)
- Bitter Herbs (Horseradish)
- Small bowl of Salt Water

See an example Seder plate in the Extra Resources (p.33).

■ **Removing the Leaven (p.8):** Hide small pieces of a normal loaf of bread throughout the house or room.

■ **The Four Cups (p.12):** Wine or grape juice will be used at four times throughout the meal. Include enough for each person to have four mouthfuls.

■ **Lighting of the Candles (p.10):** Candles and a lighter.

■ **Washing of the Hands (p.11):** A water basin (bowl), a pitcher with water in it and several hand towels.

■ **Passover Meal (p.25):** This meal can consist of any food. Make something special for the celebration or go online to find more traditional offerings.

■ **The Afikomen (p.14):** The afikomen is a small decorated bag that traditionally represents the tomb. To do this activity, you will need:

- An afikomen
- A piece of white cloth
- A small prize for the child that finds the afikomen

■ **The Returning King (p.28):** In a traditional Seder, a spot at the table was set for the prophet Elijah's return. Christ-followers are not waiting for the return of Elijah, rather the return of Jesus. Set an empty space at the table for Jesus that includes a fancy goblet full of wine/juice.

Once you have prepared and the guests have arrived, it is time to begin the Seder experience. Get everyone comfortable, pass out booklets, and begin reading on the next page.

THE SEDER EXPERIENCE

Seder Leader: For over 3500 years, the Jewish people have celebrated the Passover. During this time, they would remember how God had freed their ancestors from enslavement in the land of Egypt. The sharing of the Passover story came to be known as the *Haggadah*, a Hebrew word that means, 'the telling'. The meal and the practices surrounding it is called the *Seder*, Hebrew for 'order'. The Seder is full of special foods and rituals that are designed to help Jewish participants reconnect with the story of their ancestors and reflect on how God is providing hope and freedom in their day as well.

And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.

Moses, Exodus 12:17

But the Jewish story is different than that of the Christians. As Christ-followers, we believe that the story of Passover was a glimpse of something greater that God would do. That someday, through Jesus Christ, God would allow the consequence for sin to pass over all people who faithfully follow Him.

Jesus is our Passover.

As a result, for the Christ-follower, the symbolism found in the Seder is transformed. The food and practices take on new meaning. During this time, we will remember the original Passover of the Israelites leaving Egypt, but we will see its fulfilment in Jesus the Messiah - the Lamb of God. We will discover the story of God's salvation for the Jewish people, but we will find our own story interwoven throughout.

As we begin this journey, let us pray.

(The Seder Leader gives a prayer of thanks)

REMOVING THE LEAVEN

Seder Leader:

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

The Lord, Exodus 12:15

As the Israelites prepared to leave Egypt, God had them make food that they could take in haste. One of those food items was bread made without yeast. As time went on, this yeast came to represent sin.

Read It: Because of Jesus Christ, sin no longer has a hold on our lives. It no longer has a place.

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Paul, 1 Corinthians 5:6 - 8

Seder Leader: The Jewish people would remove all forms of yeast from their house in preparation for the Passover. As Christ-followers, we can prepare ourselves for this time by choosing repentance and asking God to reveal the sin that hides within us. As the leavened bread is removed from this place, prayerfully ask God to remove sin from your own heart.

FAMILY

Dim the lights and give the children a flashlight, reminding them that Jesus is the 'light of the world.' Allow the children to search for the pre-hidden bread. When they find it, have them cast it out the door.

Discuss It: How does Jesus reveal sin in our own lives? How should we react to the sin we find in our lives?

THE SEDER PLATE

Seder Leader: On the table is the Seder plate that contains all of the traditional items used in telling the story of Passover. Each of these items is a symbol, representing the journey of the Israelites out of the land of Egypt. For Christ-followers, the exodus is an image of our salvation. Over the course of the evening, we will discover the added depth that each of these items hold. For now, let us review what each item traditionally represents.

Read It: The parsley (karpas) represents God's blessing that came through Abraham to the Israelites: they would thrive and be a great nation.

Read It: The bitter herbs (maror) reminds us of the bitterness of slavery and sin.

Read It: The charoseth is a mixture of apples, nuts, and honey. It represents the mortar that the Israelites used to make bricks while in Egypt. It also reminds us of the sweetness of God's good grace.

Read It: The unleavened bread (matzah) is the bread that the Israelites made as they fled Egypt. It is a reminder of their deliverance from Egypt.

Read It: The roasted lamb bone (ze'roa) reminds us of the Passover lamb whose blood was spread on the doorposts of the Israelite people so that the plague of death might pass over them.

Read It: The wine represents the hope of blessing.

Seder Leader: On the night before His betrayal, Jesus celebrated what Christians often refer to as the 'Last Supper'. For Jesus and His disciples, this was really the Passover Seder:

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."

Jesus, Luke 22:15 - 16

As they took part in this Seder, Jesus revealed God's master plan of redemption to them. He showed how the items of the meal were ultimately fulfilled in Him all along.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Seder Leader: The lighting of these two candles marks the beginning of our Passover celebration. Light is an important symbol used throughout Scripture.

Read It: Light reminds us that we do not need to fear.

Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me.

Micah the Prophet, Micah 7:8

Read It: Light reminds us that God has overcome the darkness.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John the Apostle, John 1:5

Read It: Light reminds us that Jesus is the source of hope.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus, John 8:12

Seder Leader: Traditionally, the matriarch of the family lights the candles while inviting God's presence into the Seder. She will light those candles now.

Read It (Woman as she is lighting the candles): Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has made us holy by Your word. You have commissioned us to be a light to the nations, revealing to them Jesus, the Light of the World. He is the Light that drives away the darkness: The LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27:1).

WASHING OF THE HANDS

Seder Leader: In order to enter the Temple in ancient Israel, the priest would first wash himself. This purity rite was to ensure that the priest stood before God cleansed, both outward and inward. As Christ-followers, we are able to stand before God because we have been cleansed of sin by being united with Jesus through faith and baptism.

Read It: The Psalmist writes:

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Psalm 24:3 - 4

Read It: We have been purified through Jesus Christ.

You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Paul, 1 Corinthians 6:11

Seder Leader: We wash our hands to symbolize how we have had our sins washed away. During their last Seder, Jesus took off His outer garment and washed the feet of the disciples. In doing this, He showed us what it means to serve others. In the same way, we will wash the hands of the person to our left.

(Pass the water basin and hand towels around the table. Each person will wash and dry the hands of the person to their left.)

Discuss It: How does it make you feel knowing that through Jesus you have been washed free of your sins?

THE FIRST CUP

Seder Leader: The Seder includes four cups of wine, each with special significance. Traditionally, these four cups represent the four 'I will' statements that are found in Exodus 6:

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.'

God, Exodus 6:6 - 7

All Read: God promises His people: I will bring you out. I will deliver you. I will redeem you. I will take you to be my people.

Seder Leader: The first cup is called the 'Cup of Sanctification'. It reminds us of the promise that God made to the Israelites: 'I will bring you out'. In the same way, God brings His people out today, setting them apart from the world and making them holy.

Read It: We have been chosen to be different than the world.

That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

Paul, Philippians 2:15

Seder Leader: The Hebrew word for 'holy' is pronounced 'kadosh'. It is used to describe something sacred, set apart, and belonging wholly to the Lord. Hold your cup and join me as we remember the holiness that we are called to.

All Read (while holding cup): Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)

(Drink the First Cup)

THE PARSLEY

Seder Leader: Long ago, God gave Abraham, the Israelite patriarch, a blessing:

I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

God, Genesis 12:2 - 3

(Lift the Parsley) This parsley reminds us of the blessing that was made to Abraham and his descendants. We dip the parsley in salt water to remember the tears that were shed by Abraham's children while they were enslaved in Egypt.

Read It: As Christ-followers, we are now a part of the blessing of Abraham (Gal. 3:13 - 14). There will still be tears and challenges, but we have reason for hope:

In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Jesus, John 16:33

(All participants take a small piece of parsley)

All Read: As we eat this parsley, we remember the blessing of God and the promise of Jesus.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

(Dip the parsley into the salt water twice and eat it)

BREAKING THE MATZAH

Seder Leader: During the Seder, three pieces of Matzah are wrapped together. For the Jewish leaders, this became known as a 'unity' and it came to represent the three patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As Christ-followers, we see this Matzah as representing the unity of the Godhead: Father, Son, and Spirit. In addition, the Matzah is a reminder of the Messiah - the anointed one who would save God's people.

Read It: See how the Matzah is striped?

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds (stripes) we are healed.

Isaiah the Prophet, Isaiah 53:5 (bracketed words added)

Read It: See how the Matzah is pierced?

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

God, Zechariah 12:10

Seder Leader (taking the middle piece of Matzah): Jesus is the the Messiah who was striped and pierced. Just as He was broken for our sins, so we break the middle piece of Matzah in two (break the middle piece of Matzah, placing half back into its place with the other Matzah and the other half in a white cloth). The piece of Matzah within the white cloth is called the 'afikomen', which means 'that which comes after'. For the Jewish people, they were looking forward to the Messiah who was yet to come (the one who would come after). Jesus is that Messiah.

Read It: Just as the afikomen is wrapped in a white cloth, Jesus' body was wrapped for burial.

And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

Matthew the Apostle, Matthew 27:59 - 60

Read It: Just as the afikomen is hidden away, Jesus' body was hidden for three days.

He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

John Mark, Mark 8:31

(Someone hides the afikomen while the children close their eyes)

Seder Leader (taking the broken piece of Matzah remaining and breaking it in half again): The afikomen, or coming one, will return to complete our Seder meal. We know that Jesus has risen, we now await His return to this earth as King.

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

John the Revelator, Revelation 1:7

As a result, we eat this Matzah now to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made.

(Divide the broken Matzah among the participants)

All Read (holding Matzah): Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. We thank you for this bread which represents Your body that was broken for us.

(Eat the piece of Matzah)

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

(The four questions are traditionally asked by the youngest person seated at the table)

Read It (youngest person): Why do we eat unleavened bread at the Seder?

Read It: On other nights, we eat bread with yeast. During the Seder, we eat Matzah to remember that the Israelites left Egypt in a hurry. They did not have time for their dough to rise. God wants us to remember that a relationship with Him is founded on His deliverance - what He has done and not what we have done. Jesus did what we could not; He defeated the power of sin and death. So we eat Matzah to remember how He has delivered us from slavery and sin.

Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul, Romans 6:22 - 23

Read It (youngest person): Why do we eat bitter herbs on the Seder?

Read It: On other nights we eat vegetables of all types, but during the Seder we eat these bitter herbs to remember how bitter the life of slavery was for the Israelites. As Christ-followers, we eat these bitter herbs to remember how bitter a life of sin is in comparison to knowing Jesus.

(Everyone spreads horseradish onto a small piece of Matzah)

All Read (holding up Matzah): Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has given us these bitter herbs to remind us of the cost of our sin.

(Eat the Matzah with horseradish)

Read It (youngest person): Why do we dip twice on the Seder?

Seder Leader (*lifting the kharoset - apple mixture*): We have already dipped the parsley in water, reminding us of the tears of the Israelite people. We will now learn of the second dip. The kharoset reminds us of the Israelites making bricks from straw and mud for the cities of Egypt. Throughout this time, they had hope that God would rescue them. As Christ-followers, we find our hope in Jesus the Messiah. Even though we still suffer the consequences of a world broken by sin, we can have the hope of God's Kingdom and Jesus' return.

(Everyone spreads horseradish onto a small piece of matzah. Then add the kharoset mixture to the top)

All Read (*holding up Matzah*): Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has given us the fruit of the tree. Thank you for giving us the sweet hope of Jesus even in the midst of our brokenness.

(Eat the Matzah with horseradish and kharoset)

Read It (youngest person): Why do we recline on the Seder?

Read It: On other nights we sit at the table, but in traditional Seders they would eat reclining. This was a reminder of slavery in Egypt, because only the wealthy had the luxury of reclining while they ate. God changed that when He freed them from Egypt. As Christ-followers, we recline to remember that Jesus has given us freedom as well:

The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Jesus, John 8:35 - 36

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Jesus, Matthew 11:28

All Read: Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has given us freedom as Your adopted children.

THE STORY OF PASSOVER

(There are many ways to share the story the Passover:

- *Read the text of Exodus 7-12*
- *Watch the animated movie [The Prince of Egypt](#)*
- *Watch Exodus 1-18 at the [BibleProject.com](#)*
- *Read a children's book on the Passover story*

The following is a simple rendition that may fit in to your Seder experience.)

Many years ago, the grandsons of Abraham entered into the land of Egypt. They were fleeing a great famine that had come upon the land and God gave them safety and provision in Egypt. What started as a temporary stay ended up lasting 400 years. During that time, Abraham's descendants grew and multiplied. What started as 120 became a nation.

The Pharaohs of Egypt grew to fear this family that was living in their land. Slowly the relationship between the Egyptians and Israelites changed. First, the Israelites were forced into labor. Then their labor grew into slavery. When the Israelites continued to grow, a Pharaoh decided to begin killing every baby boy that was born to an Israelite family.

One Israelite family hid the son that had been born to them for three months. When they could no longer keep him hidden, they built a basket and let the baby float down the river, trusting that God would save him. Their faith proved true! As the basket floated down the river, it was drawn out by a daughter of the Pharaoh. She named the infant 'Moses' and adopted him as her own.

Moses grew up in the palace, but he knew that he was not an Egyptian. When he had grown to adulthood, Moses saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Israelites. In his anger, Moses attacked and killed the Egyptian. As a result, Moses was forced to flee Egypt to avoid punishment. His journey led him to the land of Midian, where he became a shepherd.

One day while Moses was tending the sheep, God appeared to him in a burning bush. God told Moses that He had heard the cries of His people and had a plan for saving them. That plan included

Moses. Moses was to go to the land of Egypt to speak God's words to Pharaoh: let My People go!

Moses and Aaron, his brother, appeared before Pharaoh with God's demand; but Pharaoh did not believe in their God. Instead of letting the people go, Pharaoh made the Israelites lives even more challenging. God was committed to freeing His people and so He proved His power by unleashing a series of plagues on the Egyptians:

God turned the waters of the Nile River into blood.

God set millions of frogs loose on the land.

God unleashed biting gnats upon Egypt.

God sent buzzing flies that covered every surface.

God allowed the Egyptian's cattle to grow sick and die.

God covered the Egyptian's skin with painful boils and sores.

God sent thunder and hail storms to Egypt, destroying their crops.

God directed clouds of locusts to eat all the plants of the land.

God sent a thick darkness on the land that suffocated all of the light.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Charade the Plague

Review the plagues that came upon Egypt by writing the name of each plague on a slip of paper. Have participants draw different plagues out of a hat that they then have to charade (use silent clues) to the rest of the group!

Again and again, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go. As a result, God unleashed one more plague upon Egypt - every firstborn son would die. God instructed Moses to prepare the Israelites. They would kill a Passover lamb and spread its blood on the doorframe of their home. When God saw the lamb's blood, He would pass over the house, sparing all those inside from this terrible plague.

That night, many died in the land of Egypt, but the Israelite people were passed over. Pharaoh had enough. The next morning, he told the Israelites that they were allowed to go free. The Israelites triumphantly marched out of Egypt, along with many Egyptians who had come to believe in their God.

After a short while, Pharaoh changed his mind. He gathered his armies and pursued the newly freed Israelite people. Pharaoh and his armies chased the fleeing people all the way to the edge of the Red Sea. The Israelites were trapped and afraid; but God was with them.

God told Moses to raise his staff over the waters. When he did, the sea split in half before the Israelite people. They were able to walk through the middle of the sea safely. Pharaoh's army continued to pursue them, but God allowed the sea to return to its previous state. The waters came crashing down on the Egyptians, covering chariots and horsemen alike.

On this day, God proved His power. He delivered the Israelites from slavery and the hands of the Egyptians. The Israelites saw what God had done and they knew that He was for them. He was their God and they were His people.

This is the story of Passover.

Discuss It:

Outside of the death of the firstborn, which of the plagues would have been the worst to experience?

When have you struggled in trusting that God was there for you?

What is something that God has delivered you from?

Slaves in Egypt Song

(Everyone sings this song together and does the hand motions. The song is to the tune “Here we go ‘round the Mulberry Bush”)

(Act like kneading clay with hands)

This is the way we mixed the clay; we mixed the clay; we mixed the clay. We mixed the clay and worked all day when we were slaves in Egypt.

(Act like you are crying)

This is the way we groaned and sighed, groaned and sighed, we groaned and sighed. This is the way we moaned and cried when we were slaves in Egypt.

(Fold hands like you are praying)

This is the way that Moses came, Moses came, that Moses came. He spoke to us in God's own name when we were slaves in Egypt.

(Cover eyes like you are in horror of the plagues)

This is the way so just and sad, just and sad, so just and sad that Yahweh punished pharaoh bad when we were slaves in Egypt.

(Clapping to the beat)

This is the way we left the land; we left the land; we left the land. We marched away a happy band no longer slaves in Egypt.

(Act like you are walking between walls of water)

This is the way we crossed the sea; we crossed the sea; we crossed the sea. We praised our God, who set us free, no longer slaves in Egypt.

From A Family Haggadah, Anna Marie Dandy

THE SECOND CUP

(Fill the cups a second time)

Seder Leader: The second cup is called the 'Cup of Deliverance'. It reminds us of the second promise that God gave His people in Exodus 6: 'I will deliver you from slavery.' As the Israelites crossed over the Red Sea, they broke out in worship of God. His deliverance caused them to be filled with joy.

Read It: As Christ-followers, we can have joy because we have been delivered from sin by the Lamb of God.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
Paul, 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

All Read (while holding cup): Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. We praise you for the deliverance you have given us and the joy you have grown in us.

(Drink the Second Cup)

Dayenu Song

“Dayenu” (pronounced DIE-AY-NEW) is Hebrew for, “It would have been enough”. This is a traditional Hebrew Passover song that is sung to the tune of BINGO (“Dayenu, Dayenu, Dayenu, it would have been enough. Hey!!”)

Song Leader: If the Lord had merely rescued us but had not brought judgment on the Egyptians.

(All sing Dayenu chorus)

Song Leader: If He had only destroyed their gods but had not parted the Red Sea.

(All sing Dayenu chorus)

Song Leader: If He had only led us through the desert but had not provided us rest.

(All sing Dayenu chorus)

Song Leader: If He had only freed us but not provided for all our needs along the way.

(All sing Dayenu chorus)

Song Leader: If He only had taken our sins on the cross but had not provided for our healing as well.

(All sing Dayenu chorus)

Song Leader: If only He had come once and not promised to come again.

(All sing Dayenu chorus)

(Drink the second cup of wine with a toast of “Dayenu”)

From A Family Haggadah, Anna Marie Dandy

LAMB AND LIFE

Seder Leader (*lifting the lamb bone*): The lamb bone reminds us of the blood of the lamb that marked the doors of the Israelite people. It was this blood that was a sign to God during the final plague, the death of the firstborn. Since the Temple in Jerusalem is destroyed, the Jewish people no longer make sacrifices. As a result, lamb is not always eaten on Passover anymore.

Read It: Jesus is the Lamb of God. It is His blood that covers us so that death may pass us as well.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

John the Apostle, 1 John 1:7

Seder Leader (*lifting the egg*): In Hebrew, the roasted egg is called a khagigah, which means 'special holiday offering'. For the Jewish people, the roasted egg is a reminder of new life - those children that would be born safely when the Israelites left slavery in Egypt.

Read It: For the Christ-follower, the roasted egg represents the new life that we have in Jesus Christ

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Paul, 2 Corinthians 5:17

All Read: Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth new life from old. Thank you for the everlasting life you have given us in Jesus.

Leaving Egypt Alphabet Game

Play an alphabet game by saying, 'I am leaving Egypt and I am taking a _____.' The starting player must start with the letter 'a'. Each player after that answer starting with the next letter of the alphabet (e.g. *a - apple; b - bags of money; c - camels*).

If you are playing with older children, raise the challenge by each player having to repeat all of the answers already given before answering with their own letter.

PASSOVER MEAL

Seder Leader: It is now time for the Passover meal. We will open this time with prayer before we feast.

All Read: Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the many foods we share tonight. Thank you for your blessing and the opportunity to share this meal with one another.

(Continue the Seder experience once dessert has been eaten)

Discuss It:

What blessings from God are you most grateful for?

What do you think the feast will be like when Jesus returns?

SEARCH FOR THE AFIKOMEN

Seder Leader: Earlier in the Seder Experience, we hid the afikomen, which contains the broken piece of matzah. This matzah represents the body of Jesus which was ‘hidden’ in the tomb after His crucifixion. The search for the afikomen reminds us of the fact that we must diligently search for Jesus.

(The children are released to search for the afikomen and return it for a reward)

Seder Leader: The afikomen is the final food to be eaten during the Seder. Its taste is to remind us of the life-changing action that Jesus performed on the cross.

(Everyone breaks off a piece of the Matzah and holds it)

Read It: Jesus is the Bread of Life:

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.

Jesus, John 6:51

Read It: The bread represents His body:

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.”

Jesus, Luke 22:19

All Read: Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who makes a path for us into Eternity with You.

(All eat the Matzah)

THE THIRD CUP

(Fill the cups a third time)

Seder Leader: The third cup is called the 'Cup of Redemption' because of the promise that God made the Israelites, 'I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.' The word 'redemption' means 'to buy back'. God bought Abraham's descendants from the power of the Egyptians.

Read It: As Christ-followers, we have been redeemed as well. The blood of Jesus redeems us from the power of sin and death:

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

Paul, Colossians 1:13 - 14

Read It: The juice represents His blood:

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "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.

Jesus, Matthew 26:27 - 28

All Read (while holding cup): Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe. We thank you for the redemption that You have provided us.

(Drink the Third Cup)

THE RETURNING KING

Seder Leader (pointing to the cup set aside for King Jesus):

Throughout this Seder, this cup has set untouched. In the Jewish tradition, this cup was to remember the prophecy spoken to the prophet Malachi:

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

The Lord of Hosts, Malachi 4:5

Read It: Elijah did return. Before the birth of John the baptist, an angel appeared speaking these words:

He (John) will go before him (the Messiah) in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.

Angel of the Lord, Luke 1:17 (brackets added)

Seder Leader: John the Baptist began his ministry before Jesus. He said of Jesus, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29) We no longer wait for Elijah. Instead, we wait for the return of Jesus.

Read It: Jesus has promised that He will return:

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Jesus, John 14:1 - 3

Read It: Jesus is returning and the whole world will see Him:

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

John, Revelation 1:7

All Read: May King Jesus come soon in our time. May every knee bow at His arrival.

THE FOURTH CUP

(Fill the cups a fourth time)

Seder Leader: The fourth cup is called the 'Cup of Restoration' because of the promise that God made the Israelites, 'I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God.' The Jewish people drank this cup looking forward to the day when God would restore their nation.

Read It: As Christ-followers, God has adopted us into His Family - the Church:

But 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.

Simon Peter, 1 Peter 2:9

Seder Leader: Because we have been restored to God, we can now live a life of praise to Him.

(Listen to a worship song or read the following song of praise adapted from Psalm 136 together.)

One person is the continuous reader for each of the Read It sections in this section.

Reader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: Give thanks to the God of gods.

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: To him who alone does great wonders,

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: Who by his understanding made the heavens,

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: Who spread out the earth upon the waters,

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: Who made the great lights,

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: The sun to govern the day,

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: The moon and stars to govern the night.

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: To the One who remembered us when we were far from Him,

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: And freed us from sin and darkness,

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: And who gives food to every creature.

All Read: His love endures forever.

Reader: Give thanks to the God of heaven.

All Read: His love endures forever.

(Continue once the praise time is complete.)

Seder Leader: Let this last cup remind us to praise the Lord.

All Read (while holding cup): Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe. We praise you for You are good.

(Drink the Fourth Cup)

ENDING THE SEDER MEAL

NEXT YEAR IN THE KINGDOM

Seder Leader: This concludes our Seder experience. Over the course of this evening, we have journeyed with the Israelites from slavery to freedom. From despair to hope. And we have discovered how these events relate to our own journey in Jesus Christ. There is one more tradition that we will celebrate this Passover. At the end of each Seder meal, Jewish people give a shout, anticipating their hope of celebrating in a restored Jerusalem with the Messiah.

As Christ-followers, we know that the Messiah has come and is returning. Let our shout of praise be in anticipation of the eternal Kingdom that Jesus will establish upon His Second Coming.

All Read: Next year in the Kingdom with Lord Jesus!

EXTRA RESOURCES

ADDITIONAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES

If you have children participating in the Seder, you can find many other activities to add to this experience on the internet. Here are a few of our favorites:

Passover Bingo: Have everyone fill out empty bingo cards using any of the 30 to 40 Passover-related words given them (e.g. Moses, matzah, plague, desert - find more online). Give everyone a highlighter to mark words that they hear in the Seder. First to five in a row is the winner.

Seder Placemats: Print off a Seder placemat for the children to color during the experience.

Lego Creativity: If you have a builder in the house, challenge them to recreate one of the scenes from the Passover story or their own version of the Seder plate.

Cup for a King: Before the Seder, include the children by creating a special cup for King Jesus. Use stick-on jewels and markers to create a unique cup to be used during the experience.

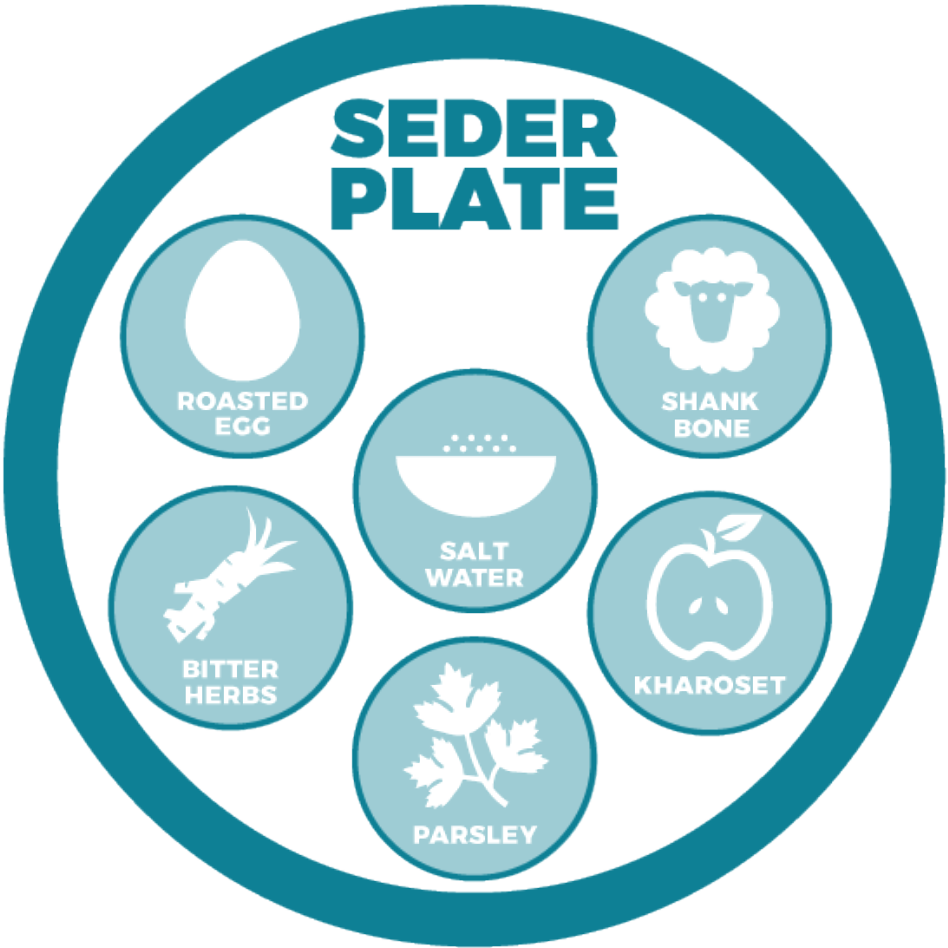
Create an Afikomen Bag: Your family can create a personalized afikomen bag to be used during the Seder. Find a blank bag (roughly the size of a makeup bag) to decorate. Spur on creativity by asking children to decorate it with things that remind them of Jesus.

'Who Am I?' Game: Play a "who am I?" game by taping the name of a Passover character to a person's forehead or the back of their shirt, then give them five "yes or no" questions to guess who they are (Possible characters include: the Pharaoh, Jesus, a Frog, Moses, Aaron, the locusts).

Dramatic Encounters: Have the children participate in the Passover story by acting out the scenes.

Froggy Face: Draw a picture of Pharoah on a poster board. Place the postboard on the floor and let children toss rubber frogs at him (think Corn-Hole). The kids score points depending on where their frog lands.

THE SEDER PLATE



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VISION

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MISSION

To bring Jesus glory by making disciples.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus, Matthew 28:18 - 20

VALUES



BIBLICAL TRUTH

Our thoughts, attitudes, and actions are filtered through the God-given lens of the Bible.



REAL RELATIONSHIPS

We grow Kingdom community that is authentic, transparent, and life-changing.



SELFLESS SERVICE

We honor God with our time, talents and treasures, in our neighborhood and in our world.



INSPIRED WORSHIP

We put God first, loving Him with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind.



SPIRIT-LED LIVING

We keep in step with the Spirit as he grows, transforms, and guides our lives.

NEXT STEP

DISCIPLESHIP

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