

A Passover Haggadah

**FOR
THE
FAMILY**

**Luke 22:19
“Do this in remembrance of Me.”**

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Purpose: The purpose of this Haggadah is to provide your family or small group with the opportunity to share together the appointed Feast of Passover (Leviticus 23, Exodus 12, Matthew 26). This Haggadah has been put together in a simplistic way to help you celebrate a holiday known and celebrated by the Jews but removed from the Christian tradition until recent years. For many of us, our knowledge of the Passover comes from a short communion ceremony within a church service; however, it was much more than that in the early church, the days of Jesus and before. It was in the days of Moses when God first created the Passover as a protection for Israel upon their departure out of slavery from Egypt. As significant and miraculous as that event was, it was also the foreshadowing of a Passover that was to come, which would save all who believe in the final Passover lamb: Yeshua (Jesus) who was slain for our protection from death. The Passover is a day of remembrance. A day to remember the Bible stories and lessons of old, a day to celebrate the salvation of God and a day to grow closer to God and to each other. Jesus said that when we celebrate Passover, we do so in remembrance of Him. Passover is a celebration of freedom: freedom from slavery and oppression from Egypt; and freedom from the slavery and oppression of sin. My prayer is that you receive a blessing through your participation in this Passover Seder and that you grow with God and those you celebrate with.

Instructions: Use this Haggadah to help guide you through the Passover Seder. Remember the Haggadah is only a guide, not a law. Passover is a celebration, as well as a teaching time. It is a time to relax, recline, fellowship, etc. It is a time to commune with one another and with God. This Haggadah has been designed from many resources to help us celebrate effectively. Each section has been marked out for you.

Remember: Jesus, himself, celebrated the Passover in the upper room. During this celebration, Jesus instituted a *New Covenant* with the use of the symbols of the Seder. Jesus instructs us that we are to keep this annual feast as a reminder of Him!

Some things you might need for your Seder:

- ☆ candles (any kind)
- ☆ center plate - see Seder plate overview for description. It can be any type or size of plate that will simply display the emblem food
- ☆ matzah bread (bread or crackers **must be unleavened – no Yeast Rolls!**)
- ☆ bowls of saltwater (small)
- ☆ parsley
- ☆ horseradish
- ☆ plenty of grape juice
- ☆ charoses (could be apple crisp)
- ☆ Haggadah for each person
- ☆ main course meal – preferably lamb, chicken or vegetables, etc. (no pork!)
- ☆ Bible

Introduction:

Leader: Tonight is a very special night; we are going to have a dinner celebration called a Passover Seder. This is a meal with special foods and special meanings that will provide a better understanding of two very important and very true stories from the past. The first story is about the Exodus of the Israelites out of slavery and into a freedom journey toward their promised land. The other story is about Jesus, a story of how God delivered Himself through His son to save the world from sin

and provided them a freedom journey toward eternal life. The first story of how God delivered the Israelites was a picture of how Jesus died for our sins.

The Lighting of the Candles:

Have the eldest or host female of the home light two candles on the main table. Then have her open the evening with prayer to bless the celebration.

An Overview of the Seder Plate:

Leader: This special plate is called the Seder plate. (Have one for display. It doesn't have to be authentic, just a simple plate with examples of the emblems will do). On this plate are the examples of foods within the Seder meal that symbolize many parts of the Passover story and are commanded to be eaten in the book of Exodus. Every part of the Passover paints a portrait of redemption of the people of God both spiritually and physically.

- Shank bone of a lamb– (if possible) symbolized the lamb eaten before they fled Egypt, and God's providence of that Lamb.
- Matzah – unleavened bread or crackers to remind us that the Israelites hurried to get out of Egypt. Also, leaven is often found in scripture as a picture of sin. Jesus, our Passover lamb, was without sin or blemish.
- The bitter herbs – (horseradish) representing bitter bondage of the slavery to sin as well as the bitter bondage of Israel to Ancient Egypt.

- Charoses – (apple crisp) a sweet tasting food representative of the mortar the Israelites used in their slavery work and the sweetness of a better future in freedom.
- Karpas – (parsley) symbolizes the new life of the Israelites as they leave Egypt and the new life for all of those who accept Jesus as the Messiah.

The Seder

The First of Four Cups – Cup of Sanctification

Everyone needs to get a cup of juice for the cup of Sanctification. This cup represents God’s cleansing of us, He is willing to cleanse us from all sin. When everyone is ready, the leader gives a brief discussion of the night and a blessing such as the following:

Leader: Let’s stand together and set this night apart from all other nights with a blessing. Blessed are you O Lord, King of the Universe who brings forth fruit of the vine and has instructed us to observe the Passover. Thank you for the appointed feasts and days of rest and celebration. Lord, cleanse our hearts at tonight’s Seder and receive it as an offering to you.

Washing of the Hands

Washing of the hands is a ceremonial cleansing. The first priest, Aaron, Moses’ brother, had to wash his hands before approaching the altar. We wash our hands tonight to symbolize coming clean before God and as a token of our desire to live clean lives.

A point of interest: It was at this time in the book of John where many believe Jesus knelt and washed His disciples’ feet.

You may give each person the opportunity to ceremonially wash or you may just have the leader do it as an example.

Eating of the Karpas (Parsley)

Leader: Instruct family or group members to take a piece of parsley in their hand. Then say: “The parsley symbolizes life, while the saltwater symbolizes the tears shed by the Israelites during their oppression. For us it is also a reminder of the tears shed by Christ over Jerusalem, and on His journey to the cross. We dip twice into the saltwater and then eat.”

Breaking the Matzah

The Matzah is bread without yeast. The Israelites had to bake bread without yeast in Exodus because they did not have time to wait for it to rise, they had to leave and leave quickly. Yeast is also used throughout the Bible as a symbol of sin and false teaching, so unleavened bread is a symbol of being without sin and partaking of the truth. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.” This bread is also a portrait of Jesus, who had no sin (John 6:48-51).

On your table you see three pieces of Matzah separated each by a cloth. These loaves represent the three person nature of God, three parts in one: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The middle piece in the Seder is known as the Afikomen, or showbread. It is the best, most perfect piece and it represents the body of Christ in our Seder.

Leader: Take the middle piece and break it in two, one piece slightly larger than the other. The larger piece is wrapped and set aside for later as the Afikomen. The small piece is put back between the two other pieces. Have a child place the Afikomen piece under a pillow somewhere in the room or a room nearby to represent the burial behind the stone. If you have children involved, have fun with this.

Questions from the Children: Exodus 12:25-26 says that children will have questions about the Passover. If children are involved in your Seder, incorporate them! It is Jewish custom during the Seder after the Afikomen is taken to have the children recite these four questions.

1. Why do we eat unleavened bread on this night when all other nights we eat bread with yeast?
2. Why do we eat only bitter herbs on this night when all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables?
3. Why do we dip our vegetables twice on this night when we do not dip our vegetables even once on other nights?
4. Why do we eat our meal reclining on this night when all other nights we eat our meal sitting?

At this time you can go different directions. If you have no children involved you can discuss these questions, provide answers, or simply paraphrase the Passover story or read the story from Exodus 12. The amount of time and detail spent is up to you.

The Second Cup – Cup of Instruction

Leader: Place some juice in your cup to commemorate the cup of Instruction. This cup begins the time where we tell the ancient story of Exodus. Blessed are you oh Lord our God, King of the universe who provides us with the teachings of old to remind us of your grace and love and to point us to the Jesus the Messiah. Drink the cup of Instruction.

The Passover Story

If kids are involved you may want to stop and read the Passover story in **Exodus 12:3-49** or read a short children's book on the Passover.

What might be best is to have a child or children within your family or group simply share what they feel the Passover means to them. There is a lot of freedom with this. The main point here is to include the children as stated in the Scriptures and share the Passover story with them!

The Ten Plagues

Throughout the first Passover story, the Pharaoh of Egypt refused to listen to Moses and the Israelites. As a result, God sent ten Plagues that came upon Egypt and created destruction and devastation throughout the people, the land and their possessions.

Leader: Now let's dip our finger in the juice, putting a drop of juice on our plate (each person will need to have a small plate or napkin for this prepared ahead of time) for each plague as it is recited. Everyone can recite the names of the Plagues together, while dipping a finger into the second cup and placing one drop of juice on the plate (ten total drops).

1. Blood
2. Frogs
3. Lice
4. Swarms of flies
5. Cattle plague
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death of the firstborn

Eating of the Bitter Herbs

The bitter herb is usually horseradish. Eating this symbolizes the bitterness of sin in our lives. The bitter herb should be eaten with a small piece of matzah. Sin is a severe sting that leads

to separation from God. As we eat the bitter herbs, let us be reminded of the bitterness of the crucifixion, and the pain that sin can cause.

A point of interest: Some believe that it was at this point in the meal that Jesus announced His betrayal. We obviously cannot know this for sure, but again we are reminded of the bitter pain of betrayal of the One who came to seek and save the lost.

Leader: Everyone take a small piece of Matzah and dip it in the bitter herbs. Blessed are you oh Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who commanded us to eat the bitter herbs which remind us of the sting of sin and death. Eat the bitter herbs.

The Hillel Sandwich

Now take two small pieces of matzah with a small amount of bitter herbs and some sweet charoses in between. This sandwich teaches us to take some of the bitterness with the sweet comfort of God. The sweet charoses, as stated earlier, symbolizes the sweet work of the Lord. This mixture gives us a “taste reminder” of how the forgiveness of Jesus our Messiah can overcome the bitter bite of sin.

Leader: Take the matzah and make your hillel sandwich. Blessed are you oh Lord, our God, King of the Universe who allows us to take the good with the bad and provides us with your sweet grace to deaden the taste of sin. Take and eat the Hillel sandwich.

Leader: At this time we will eat the main course of the meal. Have the leader pray over the meal, pass and eat. Take as much time as you see fit here to relax, fellowship and enjoy the company of one another.

Hunt for the Afikomen

If children are involved, move the Afikomen during the meal and then have them go hunt for the Afikomen when the meal is over. The children are to report back that the stone has been moved and that all that was found was the cloth of the bread. The oldest child however, would know the whereabouts of the special piece of showbread, and, for a ransom (candy, money or whatever you choose), the showbread is brought out as the ransom has been paid.

Spiritual Application: When the women closest to Jesus went to pay respects to the body, the stone was rolled away and the body was gone. All that was left was the linen cloth. Also, Jesus was bought for a ransom, being betrayed by one of His own for 30 pieces of silver. Again, these are great opportunities to make this Seder feast interactive for children and teach them some very foundational essentials of their faith. **However, if you do not have children involved, this is not a mandatory part of the Seder.** You may simply share this story of how Jewish families for centuries participate in this activity and haven't seen the connection. Jesus is alive and is the showbread of our meal. Bring forth the Afikomen to the leader.

Breaking and Eating the Afikomen

Leader: Take a piece of the Afikomen, and pass the rest, instructing all to break a piece off.

A point of interest: It is at this time in the Seder, with this special, perfect unleavened bread, many believe Jesus stood up, took this bread, blessed it, broke it and said, "Take and eat for this is my body broken for you. Whenever you eat of this bread, eat it in remembrance of me." It does make sense that it would be that part of the Seder. We are also warned in the Scriptures to not eat of this bread in an unworthy manner. This bread is reserved for those with a clean heart before God.

Leader: Pray a blessing of the remembrance of this bread. Blessed are you Lord Jesus, King of the Universe who brings forth bread from the earth and who became our true bread from Heaven.

The Third Cup – Cup of Redemption

Leader: This cup in our Seder is the cup used to remember the lamb's blood that was shed on that first night of Passover, and pasted upon the Hebrew doorposts to protect their household from the death angel. This cup remembers that it was by the blood of the lamb that the Hebrews were saved, and redeemed to new life and freedom. As with the Afikomen, many believe Jesus took this cup, the cup of redemption, fully knowing what his disciples understood it to be, blessed it and said this is my blood.

Leader: Make sure everyone has a cup of juice and recite this blessing: Blessed are You of Lord, King of the Universe, who brings forth fruit of the vine and has redeemed us by Your blood from the slavery of sin and the sting of death by providing us eternal life with You. Drink of the cup of redemption.

A point of interest: It is at this time in the Seder, Jesus took the cup, filled it, blessed it and said, "This is my blood of the New Covenant shed for you. Whenever you drink of this cup, you do so in remembrance of me."

Celebration

This is a great time to take a moment to celebrate. Maybe sing a hymn, praise song or recite a favorite Psalm of praise. Some possibilities include: Psalm 113, 114, 118:22-23, or any of the Psalms 115-118 are good to use. This is also a great time for sharing and reflection among the group.

The Fourth Cup – Cup of Praise or Completion

Leader: In the upper room when our Messiah, Jesus kept the Passover with His disciples, He did not drink of this cup. He said, “I will not drink of this cup until we are in the kingdom.” This cup is prophetic and is a promise of His return and our dwelling with Him in the New Jerusalem. Now we will therefore drink from this cup, the cup of Praise, blessing Jesus as our King and thanking Him for our future dwelling with Him forever.

Blessed are you, Jesus, King of the Universe, who brings forth fruit of the vine and is preparing for us today a place in the Kingdom! Drink of the cup of Praise.

Conclusion of the Seder

Most Seders end with a song. We find this also on that last night with Jesus and His disciples in Mathew 26:30 and Mark 14:26. Again, choose a song or praise chorus that fits your group.

Leader: Have everyone stand and give a closing prayer and final blessing.

Extra thoughts: There are many variations of the Seder. This Seder has been designed using a compilation of many other Seders both from Judaism and the Messianic movement (Jewish Believers in Jesus as Messiah). What is not important is to get hung up on the exact order of events. What is important is that Passover was an appointed time ordained by God in Leviticus 23. It is a tremendous time to reflect, learn, worship, share our faith and develop relationships. For centuries, Christians have missed out on this awesome celebration time that is all about Jesus, family and God’s love for us. It is my prayer that your Seder brought a blessing to

you and that this can be an annual feast in your lives as we do so “in remembrance of Him”. Also, my hope is that this will bring new life and meaning into your weekly communion time during Sunday service as you learn more about what these emblems represent.

Jesus, our Messiah, is also our Passover Lamb. In the final few pages of this Haggadah are some helpful thoughts for you to share with your group, or to study on your own about the Passover. They are there to stir your thoughts and further your understanding.

Possible Plan of Passover Week at the Crucifixion

Day	6pm – 6am	Events of Jesus	Scripture	
6 th day before Passover	Nisan 9	Thurs/Fri	Thursday at Zacchaeus' Home. Enters Bethphage. Cleanses Temple.	Matthew 21:17 thru Luke 19:1-29 John 12:1
5 th day before Passover	Nisan 10	Fri/Sat	Sabbath at Bethany. First of the three suppers and two anointings.	John 12:2-11
4 th day before Passover	Nisan 11	Sat/Sun	Entrance to Jerusalem. Weeps over the city. Enters Temple. Returns to Bethany.	Mark 1:8-10 thru 11:1-7 Luke 9:29-35 thru 19:36-44 John 12:12-19
3 rd day before Passover	Nisan 12	Sun/Mon	Returns to Jerusalem. Curses the fig tree. Goes to temple for teaching and further cleansing.	Matthew 21:18-22 Mark 11:12-19 Luke 19:45-48 John 12:20-50
2 nd day before Passover	Nisan 13	Mon/Tue	Returns to Jerusalem.. Parables and questions. Prophecy about the Temple. Second supper with Simon. Back to Bethany.	Matthew 21:23-28, 23:39 Matthew 24:1-51, 25:1-46 Mark 11:20-33, 12:1-44 , 13:1-37, 14:1-9
Passover & day of Crucifixion	Nisan 14	Tue/Wed	Preparation for last supper. Passover supper. Goes to Gethsemane. Crucified at 9am; died at 3pm; and buried before 6pm.	Matthew 26&27 Mark 14&15 Luke 22&23 John 13&19
Sabbath of Unleavened Bread	Nisan 15	Wed/Thurs	First night and first day in tomb.	
Second Day of Unleavened Bread	Nisan 16	Thurs/Fri	Second night and second day in tomb.	
Weekly Sabbath of First Fruits	Nisan 17	Fri/Sat	Third night and third day in tomb. Arose at the end of the Sabbath.	Matthew 28:1-10 Mark 16:1-18 Luke 24:1-49 John 20:1-23

Passover throughout Scripture:

Numbers 9: First Anniversary of Passover.

Deuteronomy 16: Reminds us to keep the Passover.

Joshua 5:10 and following: Passover celebrated upon the entrance to the Promised Land.

Ezra 6:19 and following: Passover as the Hebrews return from captivity.

2 Chronicles 30-32: After decades of going without, King Hezekiah restores Passover and the people were so moved that they had an extended celebration.

2 Kings 23: King Josiah restores the Passover.

Ezekiel 45:21 and following: The prophet Ezekiel restores Passover.

Luke 2:41 and following: Jesus goes with His parents to Jerusalem as a child to celebrate Passover.

Matthew 21-28: Passover week.

1 Corinthians 5:7: Jesus is called our Passover.

Acts 12:3: Peter imprisoned at the time of Passover.

Passover Observance	Messiah Correlation
The lamb must be without blemish.	Jesus was examined and found without blemish. Matthew 21:23 and John 11:49-53
The lamb was set aside four days before Passover.	Jesus entered Jerusalem on public display four days before Passover.
The penalty was imposed the moment the lamb was chosen.	Christ was chosen before He was born to bear our sin.
The lambs were killed around 3pm at the Temple.	Jesus died at the ninth hour, around 3pm. Mark 15:33-37
The blood of the lamb painted on the doorpost: protected the Hebrew homes from the Death Angel.	The blood of Jesus in His death saves us from our sins and provides a way to conquer death.
The Passover lambs (most) were born and herded to Jerusalem via Bethlehem.	Jesus was born and traveled his last trip to Jerusalem via Bethlehem. Possibly, alongside a procession of lambs.

Scripture References for Passover:

- ❖ Exodus 12:2-27
- ❖ Leviticus 23:4-8
- ❖ Exodus 12
- ❖ Luke 2:41 & 42
- ❖ John 5:1-15
- ❖ John 6:1-13
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
- ❖ John 13-16

Glossary:

Afikomen: Middle piece of Matzah, the showbread of the Passover meal. It has a Greek word meaning: “That which comes after.”

Charoses: Sweet tasting fruit of the Passover Seder plate.

Karpas: Parsley, or green herbs.

Haggadah: A book containing the story of the Exodus and the ritual of the Seder, read at Passover.

Maror: Bitter herbs used during the Passover meal.

Matzah: Unleavened bread.

Nisan: The first month of the Jewish calendar and the month of Passover (March/April).

Seder: Order. The family or group ritual followed to celebrate the Passover.

Resources Used:

The Seven Festivals of the Messiah

by Edward Chumney

A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays

by Robin Sampson and Linda Pierce

Passover Haggadah

by Monte Judah

Celebrating the Biblical Feasts in Your Home or Church
by Martha Zimmerman

Handbook of Bible Festivals
by Galen Peterson

Feasts of the Lord
by Kevin Howard

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