



## THURSDAY – PASSOVER / LAST SUPPER Read John 13:1-20 AND/OR Matthew 26:17-29

In an upper room Jesus prepared both himself and his disciples for his death. He gave the Passover meal a more vivid personalized meaning. The loaf of bread and cup of wine represented his body soon to be sacrificed and his blood soon to be shed. And so he instituted the “Lord’s Supper.” After singing a hymn they went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony, knowing what lay ahead for him. Before Jesus led his disciples in the Passover meal he washed their feet. Talk about the significance Jesus doing this and why he chose to do it. What was he trying to teach them? How can we serve someone else in such a humble way before Holy Week is over?

Passover comes from the Old Testament times when God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. The last plague inflicted on the Egyptians was the death of all the firstborn males. Read or Overview of this account in Exodus 7-11. Then read or overview what “Passover” symbolizes in Exodus 12. Before enjoying a traditional Jewish Seder Meal for dinner, watch the scene from Prince of Egypt or enjoy the full movie (before or after dinner) that portrays the plagues over Egypt and the angel of death passing over the Israelites homes. Pray in sincere thankfulness for this miracle before beginning dinner. During dinner discuss the meaning for each food eaten...have any children present (12 & under...starting with the youngest) take turns asking the oldest person present “Why do we eat \_\_\_\_\_ on Easter?” The oldest member may respond by reading the notes under each food item listed on the following page. After dinner, end the evening with communion.

### A simplified version of a Seder Meal

#### LAMB (we'll eat roast beef)

Reminds us of...the lamb that was slain for sins

*As Christians...*we know Jesus to be the perfect

Lamb, God’s sacrificial gift for the sins of all people & all time.

#### MAROR bitter herbs & pungent vegetables (we'll eat a mix of diced onions, carrots, green peppers all mixed in hummus)

Remind us of...bitter suffering our Jewish ancestors knew as slaves in Egypt

*As Christians...*we can remember those that suffered for Christ so that we might know the joyous good news of Jesus.

#### PARSLEY OR WATERCRESS (we'll eat a spread made of cilantro, onions, & tomatoes)

Reminds us of...continual rebirth of growing things

*As Christians...*it represents God’s gift of everlasting life.

#### ROASTED EGG (we'll eat “circle cheese”)

Reminds us of...a free-will offering, a symbol of giving more to God than just what is demanded

*As Christians...*we have been given mercy, love & forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

#### MATZOTH unleavened bread (we'll eat pita pockets w/ cheese)

Reminds us of...when our Jewish ancestors had to flee Egypt & didn’t have time to wait for the bread to rise

*As Christians...*we must live life so that we’re always ready for Jesus’ return.

#### HAROSETH (mix of chopped apples, nuts, cinnamon & honey)

Reminds us that...the sacrifice our Jewish ancestors made living in slavery was sweetened by freedom

*As Christians...*we are free from sin’s condemnation & have new life in Christ.

#### WINE (we'll drink grape juice)

Reminds us of...total liberation

*As Christians...*it represents Jesus’ blood poured out for us on the cross. He had to die in order for us to have total liberation from sin.

#### ELIJAH’S CUP goblet on table (we'll use sparkling grape juice)

Reminds us of...Elijah, who the Israelites believed would foretell the coming of the Messiah. The cup remains full to welcome his announcement

*As Christians...*we believe John the Baptist to be this “Elijah” and the cup can be used for communion after our Seder Meal (plain crackers can be used as communion bread).