

Celebrating the

Passover

A Guide for Christians
to Enjoy the Feast

Pat Fenner

Celebrating the Passover

A Guide for Christians to Enjoy the Feast

Copyright © 2017 by Pat Fenner

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means – electronic, mechanical, photographic (photocopying), recording, or otherwise – without prior permission in writing from the author.

Printed in the United States of America

Learn more information at:

BreakthroughHomeschooling.com

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| What IS Passover? | 5 |
| But Why a Passover for Christians? | 7 |
| How Do I Get Started? | 9 |
| Reaching the Next Generation through Passover preparations | 10 |
| A Passover Haggadah | 12 |
| Sanctify the Holiday | 13 |
| The Lighting of the Candles | 13 |
| Display the Seder plate | 13 |
| The Four Cups of Wine | 13 |
| The Cup of Sanctification | 14 |
| The Washing of the Hands | 15 |
| Eating of the Karpas | 15 |
| The Breaking of the Middle Matzah | 15 |
| Hiding the Afikoman | 16 |
| The Four Questions | 16 |
| The Story of Passover | 17 |
| The Cup of Wrath | 17 |
| The Dayenu (dei-AY-noo, meaning “it would have been sufficient) | 19 |
| The Passover Lamb | 20 |
| Eating the Matzah | 21 |
| The Maror | 21 |
| The Charoseth | 22 |
| The Passover Supper | 22 |
| The Afikoman | 22 |
| The Cup of Redemption | 23 |
| The Prophet Elijah | 24 |
| The Cup of the Kingdom | 24 |
| Celebration Checklist | 26 |
| Suggested Menu | 27 |
| Recipes | 28 |
| Copper Pennies | 28 |
| Charoseth | 28 |
| Coconut Macaroons | 28 |
| Further Reading | 29 |

Once upon a time there was a little girl who thought deep thoughts. Her immediate family was small, but she was part of a larger and more raucous bunch of relatives who enjoyed food and laughter whenever they got together.

Deep thinking was not usually a part of those get togethers...except for once a year.

Each spring they would all converge at her aunt and uncle's house for a special meal. The format was always the same, the menu was usually the same, the participants were frequently the same, except for a new face or two each year. Over the course of the afternoon, they all - children and adults alike - would recount a very special event. A few people had key roles in this retelling, different ones taking different parts each year. Fun and games and lots of conversation and laughter always ended up this time together. But there was enough fodder for deep thought that came out of the experience each year to give this little girl important things to think about. Thoughts that grew and deepened her faith over the years.

That little girl was me. And that recurring event was Passover.

Although my skin coloring often led people to believe that I'm of Mediterranean or Middle Eastern descent, I'm not. My ethnic background is Hispanic and Ukrainian. I was raised in a Catholic home, and obviously Passover is not a "Catholic thing", either. Celebrating Passover was therefore not something that was passed down through the generations in my family. As far as I know, my aunt and uncle began the tradition as they studied the Scriptures together prior to their own marriage.

As is often the case with children, I picked up quite a bit through my participation in Passover at their house. Over the years I enjoyed seeing and understanding the foreshadowing of Jesus' sacrifice in the Old Testament. Taking Communion and contemplating the Easter story took on new meaning as well. And I experienced an increased significance to my faith during a trip to Israel in 2010 that I most definitely connect to my growing understanding of Passover.

*As a matter of fact, I believe that learning about and celebrating Passover at least once can deepen and enrich **anyone's** faith.*

If you already know Jesus, understanding the extent of His sacrifice may bring you to tears, repentance and revival.

If you do not yet know Him, this amazing display of His extravagant love will undoubtedly reach and touch your own heart.

In these pages, you'll come to a clearer awareness of how celebrating the feast of Passover celebrates God's commitment to His Word, faithfulness to His people, and love for every person in His creation.

I pray that this event helps create faith milestones in your family for years to come!

Warmly,

Pat

What IS Passover?

Passover is the Jewish celebration of the Biblical story of Moses leading God's people out of slavery. Whether taken at face value or as a marvelous analogy, it's not difficult to see the amazing examples of God's power and protection through countless miracles!

We first learn of Passover in the book of Exodus. Moses has been making appeal after appeal to Pharaoh in Egypt to release God's people from slavery and allow them to enter the Promised Land in freedom. The Israelites are almost unable to believe that this would be their last night as slaves while God explains to them in great detail two things:

1. how to go about eating this, their last meal together, and
2. what will be happening while they are eating it. (Exodus 12:12-13)

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.” (emphasis mine)

It is also in Exodus that God establishes this as a feast and ordains it to be celebrated for generations to come.

Again we see in Numbers 9:10, after the Israelites have been out of Egypt for only two years, that God commands the Passover to be celebrated periodically. (But don't we often need reminding of what God has done for us, too?)

“When any of you or your descendants are unclean because of a dead body or are away on a journey, they are still to celebrate the Lord’s Passover...”

Over and over again in the Old Testament, we see instances of God’s people celebrating Passover, whether it was at God’s command, or in gratitude as a form of worship.

Deuteronomy 16:1-3

“Observe...and celebrate the Passover of the Lord your God, because...he brought you out of Egypt by night. Sacrifice as the Passover to the Lord your God...so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt.”

In 2 Kings 23 (and 2 Chronicles 35), Josiah renews the covenant and commands the people:

“Celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.”

God spoke to the restored people of Israel through the prophet Ezekiel (45:21) and commanded them:

“In the first month on the fourteenth day you are to observe the Passover, a festival lasting seven days...”

Again, at Gilgal, after Joshua rededicated through circumcision the Israelites who had been born in the wilderness and they were healed, they all gave thanks to God using the ceremony instituted with their forefathers (5:2):

“On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. “

Finally, upon the completion of the temple under King Darius’ reign, we find in Ezra 6 (15,19) that:

“(When) the temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar...the exiles celebrated the Passover.”

But Why a Passover for Christians?

As I've grown older and learned more about my faith, I've become even more convinced about the importance of celebrating the Passover for Christians. I once heard a sermon where the pastor explained how the entire Bible points to Jesus. Even though many people may not recognize that concept, it's both interesting and awe-inspiring to see just how clearly the gift and sacrifice of Jesus are portrayed in the haggadah (the program that accompanies the Passover service).

As Christians, we have the privilege of knowing both the Old and New Testaments, and being able to see how God so beautifully fulfilled His promises in the Old Testament through Jesus in the New Testament!

A wonderful example of this can be found in Luke 24, in the well-known story on the road to Emmaus (13-27,44).

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

“What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself... He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (emphasis mine)

As we celebrate the Passover together with family and friends, we are indeed reviewing events that, despite happening so long ago, were carefully written down over time so that we would not forget.

What a gift and privilege that is!

If you’re interested in doing more research of your own on this important feast, I’ve included links and references to many other resources at the end of this guide. No doubt there are more, and I will be including others in future editions of this book as I find them, but I have included the ones that I felt offered quality information as of this publication date.

Please consider printing out a copy of the haggadah in the next section for each of your Passover guests, so they can follow along with the service.

How Do I Get Started?

Well, it depends what you're referring to...

If you mean “How do I get my head around doing this?” or “How do I get my heart into it?”, then my answer is to spend some time in prayer. While I am absolutely sold on celebrating the Passover, I know this isn't for everyone! Maybe while the idea interests you, or has your curiosity piqued, there are other factors that don't make this the ideal time to plan something like this.

Or maybe you need to take some more time to study about the Jewish feasts on your own. (If that's the case, you'll *definitely* want to take a look at the resources I have [in this article!](#))

But if you mean “I'd love to do this, but I don't even know where to begin!”, then you're in the right place :-)

A Christian Passover Blueprint

Inside these pages you'll find everything you need to plan and host your own Passover meal.

Whether you have a small and intimate family Seder, or a larger one including friends, this guide has you covered!

And as with all my materials, if you have any questions, please [feel free to contact me via email](#), and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. (**Tip:** make sure you add “Passover question” in the subject line so it doesn't get lost in my inbox!)

Reaching the Next Generation through Passover preparations

A few years ago, as we were preparing to move, I was going through my husband's dresser drawers to pack up his clothes. I moved over a pile of t-shirts and found a little, green, construction paper frog there. I was immediately thrown back in time to our very first Passover...and sweet memories flooded my heart.

When we first started celebrating Passover, it was because I had chosen a "hands on" curriculum of sorts for our Bible studies (see #3 under "[Further Reading](#)"). To be honest, what drew me to it was the purple cover...but once I started looking through it, the content grabbed me. It was perfect for the kids (they were elementary-aged at the time).

Those early years were full of hands-on fun learning. We crafted banners to decorate the house with symbols of Jesus from the Bible; we made centerpieces of paper lambs and talked about the symbolism and meaning as we glued on cotton balls ("wool") to our animal; we made paper frogs and gnats and locusts and tucked them away around the house to find another day; we sewed handkerchiefs together to make our own afikomen bag... There were tons of craft ideas and projects and coloring sheets in that book: lots and lots of opportunities to kick off unit studies on a variety of topics. And, more importantly, to talk about God and His love for us!

*I discovered that **celebrating the Passover is a wonderful way to reach the next generation for Christ.***

As a matter of fact, that is one of the reasons God insisted that His people continue to celebrate it over the years: to retell, and remember, and teach the younger ones of the magnificent power and provision of the Lord!

Who knows? We may still find some paper frogs or gnats in a drawer or box when we move next time. *But what's even more important is that the lessons we've learned over the years are also hidden away in our hearts...ready at a moment's notice to be a tool to tell others of God's love for us all.*

A Passover Haggadah

The “[haggadah](#)” is the text recited at the Seder on the first two nights of the Jewish Passover, and includes a narrative of the Exodus story. In a more general sense, it means “narration”, “telling”, or “recital” in Hebrew. Haggadot (plural) have been published in nearly every country where there are large Jewish populations, and thus there are many different versions available.

Christians have the added dimension of understanding the many analogies and parallels to Jesus in the narrative. This understanding is naturally absent in the Jewish telling, as they do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. When we were preparing our own format, my husband spent hours pouring over the few haggadot I had found in books as well as an old copy I had from my aunt and uncle. (This was before the days of abundant information available on the internet.)

Even as we use this year to year, there are sections where my husband Paul goes to great lengths to explain how the life and sacrifice of Jesus is foreshadowed. As you read through this on our own, keep your eyes open for those parallels.

It’s important to note here that we are supplying this haggadah only for your convenience. You may decide to use it as you put together your first celebration, but feel free to further adjust it as you do further study or gain a deeper understanding of the Word.

I hope your family is blessed during this Passover season ~ and always ~ by seeing and celebrating and remembering the sacrifice of Jesus and the part it plays in revealing the depth and scope of God’s love for you.

Passover Haggadah

Sanctify the Holiday

Open with a prayer over this festival of freedom

Leader (eldest male of the family).

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, practices, and Scripture readings that remind us of two very special true stories. The first story happened many years before Jesus. God instructed His people to meet, as we are now, and have the older people tell the younger people how God delivered Moses and the Hebrew people from Egyptian slavery.

We will also remember another story. The deliverance of the Hebrew people was a picture of how Jesus died for our sins. Listen carefully and see how similar the two stories are. Now we will start the Passover Seder as Mother lights the candles.

The Lighting of the Candles

Leader (cont.)

As we light these candles, we pray that God will light our hearts with the Holy Spirit. We want to understand how God has redeemed his people.

The woman of the house (*lighting the candles*)

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who sanctifies us by your commandment and has ordained us that we kindle the Passover lights. You have made us your own. Bring light into our hearts and minds as we honor and remember your son. The light of the world, Y'shua Jesus.

Display the Seder plate

Leader (displaying the plate)

This special plate is called the Seder plate. Each of the foods symbolizes part of the Passover story. This is not only a story of physical deliverance from bondage, it is also a story of our spiritual deliverance. Every part of the Passover paints the portrait of that redemption. There are three foods God tell us to eat on this night, and other foods later added by men to help us remember Passover.

The shank bone of a lamb symbolizes the lamb eaten before they fled Egypt, as well as Jesus the Lamb of God.

The matzah is made with no leaven to remind us the Hebrews left Egypt in a hurry.

The bitter herbs represent the bitterness of bondage, both physically and spiritually.

The charoseth is a mixture of apples, nuts, grape juice, and cinnamon. It represents the mortar the Israelites used to build the Egyptian cities, as well as the sweetness of a better world.

The karpas symbolizes life for the Jewish people. This non-bitter vegetable is dipped into salt water representing the tears of slavery.

The Four Cups of Wine

Leader

Egypt is used in the Bible to represent the world, our bondage. When we were in bondage, God heard our cries. He chose Moses to lead us out of our oppression. These are the four promises God made to Moses.

Reader 1

"I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

Reader 2

"I will deliver you from their bondage"

Reader 3

"I will redeem you with an outstretched arm"

Reader 4

"I will take you as my people, and I will be your God"

Leader

The four cups at the Seder represent the four expressions of redemption-bring, deliver, redeem and take.

The first Cup is called the Cup of Sanctification.

The second, the Cup of Judgement, or the Cup of Plagues.

The third, the Cup of Redemption.

The fourth, the Cup of the Kingdom, or the Cup of Praise.

The Cup of Sanctification

(Everyone stand to partake of the Kadaysh (first blessing)

Family

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

Leader (pouring wine into first cup)

This is the Cup of Sanctification. Sanctification means setting apart as Holy. We are setting apart this time to bring honor to our Lord. Remember how God set apart His people from Egypt.

The woman of the house fills the rest of the cups with help, as needed

Reader 1

"Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out (set you apart) from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you..."(Ex. 6:6)

Reader 2

"In the same way God has redeemed us from sin, set us apart, when we accept Jesus as our Lord. "...God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth."(2Thess. 2:13)

Leader

We will drink from the cup while leaning to symbolize freedom, as a slave cannot relax while eating or drinking.

Family (*seated, reclining on the left side as a sign of freedom, lifting their cups*)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the first of the vine.

(drink from the cup - save enough for later)

The Washing of the Hands

Leader

We wash our hands to remind us that God is holy, and as a token of our desire to live a clean life of acceptable service to the Almighty Lord.

Reader 3

“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean heart.”(PS. 24:3,4)

Leader (*lifting the basin of water*)

Let us share together in this hand washing ceremony. (*Pass the bowl. Each person dips his hands in and passes the bowl to the next person.*)

Leader

Let us also remember Y’shua (yeh-SHOO-ah, or Jesus) took off His clothes and, wearing only a towel, washed the feet of His disciples. In doing this He showed that He came as a humble servant. We know that this water cannot really make our hearts clean. The only way that can be made pure and holy is by Y’shua’s greatest act of servanthood, his death on the cross.

Reader 4

“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who has sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”(Jn. 13:15-17)

Family

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. Help us to remember to follow the example of your Holy Son- give us the love for others that He has shown us.

Eating of the Karpas

Leader

We now remember our tears when we were in bondage. As it is written:

Reader 1

“The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God.”(Ex. 2:23)

Leader (*lifting the parsley/celery*)

Passover comes in the Spring, when we see new life around us. The karpas, or parsley, reminds us that life is a gift to us from our great and mighty God. The karpas is also like the hyssop plant which our forefathers used to smear the blood of the lamb on their doorposts and lintel. (*lifting the salt water*) When we were slaves in Egypt, life was not easy. It was full of pain suffering and tears. This salt water stand for our tears.

Family (*dipping their parsley in salt water*)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth. (*All eat karpas.*)

The Breaking of the Middle Matzah

Leader (*lifting the Unity, or the three matzah wrapped in napkins*)

At Passover, three matzah are wrapped together. They are called the Unity. Jewish teachers have many explanations for this. We who know Y’shua look at the Unity and see God the Father, God the Son and God the

Holy Spirit. Y'shua, the middle part of the tri-unity was broken, wrapped up in a linen cloth, buried, and brought forth again as the bread brought forth from the earth.

I break the bread to that Christ was broken for us. I will wrap it in linen, just as Y'shua was wrapped in linen for his burial.

(breaks the middle matzah in two, one piece larger than the other. The larger piece is set aside to serve as afikoman. The smaller piece is put back, between the two matzah.)

Hiding the Afikoman

Leader

We call this bread in the napkin the afikoman (ah-fee-KOH-men). Afikoman is a Greek word meaning "that which comes after", and is it an important part of the Seder which comes after the meal.

Now, the children will close their eyes as I hide the afikoman, just as Y'shua was hidden in the tomb for three days and nights. After this special dinner the children may look for the afikoman. Whoever finds it can return for a reward!

(children close their eyes as the leader hides the afikoman and returns to the table.)

The Four Questions

Leader

God's word says we should celebrate this Passover meal. So when your children ask why we have this service, we can explain it to them.

Reader 2

"When your children ask you, "What does this ceremony mean to you?" then tell them. (Ex. 12:26)

Reader 3

Why is this night different from all other nights?

Child 1

On all other nights we eat leavened bread. On this night, why do we eat only matzah, or unleavened bread?

Child 2

On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables. On this night, why do we eat only bitter herbs?

Child 3

On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once. On this night, why do we dip them twice?

Child 4

On all other nights we eat our meals sitting. On this night, why do we eat only reclining?

Leader

God has commanded us to answer these questions for our children. But we do so with thankful hearts, for the answers point to the great and mighty works of God.

(lifting one matzah)

On all other nights we eat leavened bread, but on Passover we eat only matzah. This reminds us that when we fled from Egypt, we did not have time to let the bread rise. Y'shua often compared yeast, which makes bread rise, with sin. He came to die for us, and take away our sin.

(lifting the maror (mah-ROAR))

On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables, but on Passover we eat only maror, or bitter herbs. This reminds us of how bitter life was for us in Egypt. It also reminds us of life in slavery to sin.

(lifting the charoseth (hah-ROH-seth))

On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once, but tonight we dip them twice. We have already dipped our parsley into salt water. We will also dip our bitter herbs into sweet charoseth. This mixture reminds us of the mortar and bricks which we were forced to make as slaves in Egypt.

On all other nights we eat sitting up, but tonight we eat reclining and sitting on pillows. This is to remind us that we are now free from slavery. On the first Passover we had to eat in a hurry, with our coats and sandals on, holding our staffs in our hands as we waited to be delivered from slavery. Now we may relax and enjoy this feast at our leisure.

The Story of Passover

Leader

Now we will tell the story of Passover.

Reader 1

Long ago, the Lord brought Abraham to the land of Canaan. God promised Abraham that this land would belong to his descendants. Abraham's grandson Jacob left that land and moved with his family to Egypt to escape a famine. Jacob's family grew, becoming our people, the Israelites. Several hundred years passed, and by this time we had become a huge nation. The Pharaoh, or ruler of Egypt, feared that we would join Egypt's enemies and fight against Egypt. So Pharaoh decided to make us his slaves. Even so, God blessed us with more children.

Reader 2

This made Pharaoh even more nervous. He ordered his soldiers to throw every baby boy into the Nile River. One Israelite hid their baby for three months. When they could hide him no longer they put him in a basket and floated it down the Nile River with his sister Miriam watching over him. The daughter of Pharaoh found the basket and decided to keep the baby and raise him as her own son. She named him Moses, which means "drawn from the water."

Reader 3

Even though Moses grew up in Pharaoh's court, he knew that he was an Israelite. He saw how we were mistreated by the Egyptians. One day, when he saw an Egyptian being cruel to an Israelite, Moses lost his temper and killed the Egyptian. He ran away from Egypt into a desert land where he worked as a shepherd

Reader 4

The Lord heard our cries as we suffered at the hands of the Egyptians. He came to Moses in a burning bush and told him to go to Pharaoh. Moses was afraid, but finally agreed that with the help of his brother, Aaron, he would go to Pharaoh and deliver God's message to "Let my people go!"

The Cup of Wrath

Leader

Pharaoh did not want to let our people go. Every time Pharaoh said no to Moses, God sent a plague or disaster to Pharaoh and the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh hardened his heart and kept saying no. The tenth time, God sent the most awful plague. This plague caused Pharaoh to change his mind.

Family

“On the same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every first born-both men and animals and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt; I am the Lord.”(Ex.12:12)

Leader

It was the Lord himself who passed over us and struck down the first of the Egyptians. In this way he delivered us from bondage. As it is written: On that same night I will pass through Egypt,

Family

I, and not an angel.

Leader

And strike down every firstborn – both man and animal –

Family

I, and not a seraph.

Leader

And I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt;

Family

I, and not a messenger.

Leader

I am the Lord

Family

I am myself and no other. (Ex.12:12)

Leader

We drink from our cups a second time to remember that many people died during the plagues, especially the last one, in order that God’s people might be set free. We also remember what it cost for us to be set free from sin and death – the lifeblood of Y’shua. As it is written:

Reader 2

“I will free you from being slaves.”

Leader

Each of the plagues focused on a being that the Egyptians worshiped. As we say each plague, we dip our finger into the cup, drip the liquid onto the plate and think about how God showed himself much greater than all the false gods of Egypt.

Family *(each plague is said loudly while dipping a finger and letting a drop of wine fall on the plate)*

BLOOD! FROGS! GNATS! FLIES! CATTLE DISEASE! BOILS! HAIL! LOCUSTS! DARKNESS! DEATH OF THE FIRST BORN!
(do not drink the cup yet)

The Dayenu (dei-AY-noo, meaning “it would have been sufficient)

Reader 1

If He had brought us out from Egypt, and had not carried out judgments against them.

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 2

If He had carried out judgments against them and not against their idols

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 3

If He had destroyed their idols, and not smitten their first born

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 4

If He had smitten their first born and not given us their wealth

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 1

If He had given us their wealth, and not split the sea for us

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 2

If He had split the sea for us, and not taken us through it on dry land

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 3

If He had us though the sea on dry land, and had not drowned our oppressors in it

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 4

If He had our oppressors in it, and not supplied our needs in the desert for forty years

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 1

If He had supplied our needed in the desert for forty years, and not fed us the manna

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 2

If He had given us the manna, and not given us the Shabbat

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 3

If He had given us the Shabbat, and not brought us before Mount Sinai

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 4

If He had brought us before Mount Sinai, and not given us the Torah

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Reader 1

If He had given us the Torah, and not brought us into the land of Israel

Family

Dayenu, it would have sufficed us!

Family (*lifting their cups*)

Dayenu! How many are your great blessings to us. For each act of goodness we are abundantly grateful. Most of all, we are thankful for Y'shua the Messiah. In him we have forgiveness of sins and abundant and everlasting life. Hallelujah!

(drink from the cup the second time)

The Passover Lamb**Leader** (*lifting the shankbone of the lamb*)

This shankbone of reminds us of the lamb that each Israel family killed on the night of the first Passover. God commanded that we take the blood of the lamb and put it on the tops and sides of the doorframe of their house. As it is written:

Reader 1

"Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframe of the houses. Where they eat the lambs." (Ex.12:7)

Reader 2

That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. (Ex.12:8)

Reader 3

“This is how you eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.”(Ex.12: 13)

Reader 4

“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”(Ex.12:13)

Leader

We who trust in Y’shua the Messiah believe that he is our Passover lamb. Just as it was God himself who redeemed the Israelites, so it is God himself, in the person of Y’shua the Messiah, who redeemed us once and for all from sin and death. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Leader (*lifting the roasted egg*)

This roasted egg is a special Passover offering. It is a symbol of mourning, reminding us of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. It is also a sign of new and eternal life. It is because of Y’shua, our Passover lamb that we have eternal life.

Eating the Matzah**Leader** (*lifting the Unity*)

Now we will partake of the bread as Y’shua did during Passover.

Reader 1

“And he took bread, broke it, and gave it unto them saying, “This is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me.”(LK.22:19)

Family

Blessed are you, O lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Leader (*takes the middle matzah from the unity, breaks it into olive sized pieces, and distributes four pieces to each*

family member)

Let us now share the unleavened bread of Passover.

Family (*holding a piece of matzah*)

Blessed are You, O lord our God, King of the universe. You set us apart as your people and commanded us to eat unleavened bread. (*all eat*)

The Maror

Leader (*passes horseradish. Each person scoops some onto a piece of matzah*)

Family (*lifting matzah with bitter herbs*)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by your Word and commanded us to eat bitter herbs. (*all eat*)

Leader

This symbolizes the bitterness of slavery and the bitterness of our sin. Let us also remember the bitterness of the crucifixion Y'shua endured for us. Just as the horseradish brings tears to our eyes, so then did our great suffering bring tears to our eyes.

The Charoseth

Leader (*takes two pieces of matzah and sandwiches them between the charoseth. Passes the charoseth. Each person scoops charoseth onto a piece of matzah and sandwiches.*)

The charoseth reminds us of the mortar and clay bricks that we made as slaves in Egypt. It reminds us that the sweetness of Y'shua can overcome bitter sin. (*all eat*)

It was at this point in the Passover Seder that Y'shua told of his disciples that one of them would betray him.

When

asked, "Surely not I?" Y'shua said it was the one who dipped his bread into the bowl with Y'shua.

The Passover Supper

Leader (*prays over meal*)

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has ordained that we celebrate the Passover. Help us, Lord, to remember the two stories of how you give freedom to your people, first freedom from Egypt, and now from sin through your precious son, Y'shua.

(*all enjoy the Passover meal*)

The Afikoman

Leader

Dinner is finished, but our Seder is not over. The children can look for the Afikoman. Whoever finds it can bring it back to me to be ransomed. (*the children hunt for the afikoman, the wrapped and hidden matzah from the Unity. The leader ransoms it back by paying money to the child who finds it.*)

We call this the afikoman, a Greek word. Jewish tradition has that afikoman means dessert, but some scholars believe that it comes from a root word which means "I have come". Y'shua called himself the bread of life. As it is written:

Reader 1

"Then Y'shua declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry."

Reader 2

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

Reader 3

Whoever eats of my flesh and drinks of my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Reader 4

"Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."(Jn. 6:35a, 51, 54,58b)

Leader

The matzah is a picture for us of Y'shua and what he did for us. Look at how the matzah is striped. As it is written:

Family

"But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."(Is. 53:5)

Leader

Look at how the matzah is pierced. As it is written:

Family

"They shall look upon me whom they have pierced."(Zc.12:10b)

Leader

See how the matzah is unleavened. Leaven stands for sin. Just as this bread is without leaven, Y'shua was without sin. As it is written:

Family

"He committed no sin and no deceit was found in his mouth."(Is.53:9, 1 Pt. 2:22)

Leader

The middle matzah from the Unity was broken, just as Y'shua, the Messiah was broken with suffering and death. We wrapped it in white cloth, just as Y'shua's body was wrapped in a linen cloth for burial. Just the afikoman was hidden, so Y'shua's body was hidden for a short time in the grave. Just as the afikoman was brought out of hiding, so Y'shua's arose from the grave. (*lifts the afikoman*)

Family

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Leader (*breaking the afikoman and distributing to all*)

It was then that Y'shua added," This is my body given for you; do this is remembrance of me."(Lk.22:19) let us now eat matzah, remembering the broken body of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (all eat)

The Cup of Redemption

Leader

When Y'shua ate the Passover meal as an obedient Jew, he drank from the first and second cups, however, he did not drink from the third cup. As it is written:

Reader 1

"Drink from it, all of you. This is the blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."(Mt. 26:27-29)

Leader

The disciples drank from the third cup but Y'shua couldn't because it represented redemption. Y'shua was willing to drink from the second cup, the Cup of Wrath. But he excluded himself of redemption by not drinking from the third cup. The next day, Y'shua who knew no sin became sin for us and died in that sin to redeem us.

Family (*lifting their cups*)

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Let us drink with thankful

hearts, remembering the Messiah's sacrifice for us. (all drink)

The Prophet Elijah

Leader (lifting the extra cup from Elijah place)

This cup is for Elijah the Prophet. In Jewish tradition one of the children opens the door to see if Elijah will come to the Seder. As it is written:

Family

"See I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and terrible day of the Lord comes." (Mal.4:5)

Leader

We who believe in Y'shua believe that Elijah has already come. Y'shua spoke of John the Baptist as the Elijah who was to come, and it was John who said, "Look the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn. 1:29) We set this place for Elijah to recognize that he has come in the person of John the Baptist.

The Cup of the Kingdom

Leader

After the disciples drank the third cup, the bible tells us that they sang a hymn and went out into the Mount of Olives (Mt. 26:30). The fourth was never drunk, not by Y'shua and perhaps not by the disciples. Y'shua went straight to the garden of Gethsemane. The name "Gethsemane" means "oil press" in Hebrew. Since "oil" is used in the Bible to symbolize the Holy Spirit, it may be said that the garden is where "the Spirit of God was crushed". Here Y'shua was betrayed and arrested. The next morning, Y'shua was taken before Pontius Pilate. He was tried, scourged and crucified.

Family

"And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet," they parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots." And sitting down they watched him there; and set up over his head his accusation written, "THIS IS Y'SHUA THE KING OF THE JEWS." (Mt. 27:36) They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he wouldn't drink. (Mt.27:27-35)

Leader

The fourth cup, the Cup of the Kingdom, reminds us that Y'shua did the wine offered to him as he was dying. Let us not drink of the fourth cup, let us wait to have this special cup with our Savior. After Christ's return we shall partake with Him - in His physical presence- in the Kingdom. (Mt. 26:29)

Family (*lifting their cups*)

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. (do not drink)

Leader

Y'shua gasped a dying cry, "I thirst." The second drink, which he accepted moments before his death, was not a cup of wine. They filled a sponge, put it upon a hyssop stalk, and with this put it to his mouth- the same stalk used to apply the blood to the wooden doorpost. (Ex. 12:22) this hyssop stalk was raised toward the Perfect Lamb who was hung on a wooden cross for the salvation of all mankind. On the third day, the Day of Firstfruits, the greatest miracle occurred! Jesus Christ was raised from the dead never to die again! Y'shua became the Firstfruits of the dead that will rise (1Cor. 15:20-23). We rejoice in his victory over death and His gift of eternal life to those who believe and follow Him.

Family

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has shown us glimpse of your infinite grace and mercy. Thanks be to You for Your son, our eternal Redeemer and Savior, the True and Perfect Lamb.

Leader

The prescribed order of the Passover is now complete. May we remember throughout the year that our redemption is complete by the sacrifice of our Passover Lamb, Y'shua the Messiah. Leh-SHAH-na Hah-BAH-ah Be-ru-sha-LAW-yim-
Next Year in New Jerusalem!

Family

Leh-SHAH-na Hah-BAH-ah Be-ru-sha-LAW-yim- Next Year in New Jerusalem!

Celebration Checklist

Use this guide to prepare your table at home. When all these are in place, you'll be able to enjoy the ceremony and meal without a hitch!

1. **Each table** will need:
 - a. Small bowl of water/small towel [for hand-washing](#)
 - b. Small bowl of salted water, for [dipping karpas](#) (parsley)
 - c. Small bowls of [charoseth](#) (recipe follows) and horseradish
 - d. 1-2 bottles of wine/sparkling grape juice

2. **Each place setting** will need:
 - a. Wine glass
 - b. A copy of [Passover Haggadah](#) with readers' sections marked
 - If you are reading this on an electronic device, you can [get a printable copy of this haggadah here](#).

3. **By Mother's place setting:**
 - a. 2 candles and matches
 - b. 1 bottle of wine/sparkling juice

4. **By Father's place setting:** Seder plate and Unity
 - a. On the Seder plate – lamb bone (you can wrap tightly and freeze one to use year after year); small bowl of horseradish, sprig of parsley, small bowl of charoseth, roasted egg (not for eating), piece of matzah
 - b. Unity – 3 matzah wrapped in layered cloth
 - c. White handkerchief for wrapping [afikomen](#)

5. There needs to be **1 extra place setting** for [Elijah/John the Baptist](#)

Suggested Menu

It's important to remember that the focus of Passover is on the story. But it's also a time to enjoy fellowship and deepen bonds with your guests. To that end, don't drive yourself to exhaustion with the menu! I say this with the voice of experience.

This is the menu our family has developed over the years. It is basic, and although perhaps not "kosher", reflects a simplicity and respect for the Hebrew roots of our faith.

- Matzoh ball soup (recipe below)
- Baked chicken
- Roast leg of lamb (I only have enough so everyone can get a taste if they choose. Some people don't enjoy lamb, but it's such a large part of the tradition that I would hate to omit it. My own family *lives* for Passover just to get some!)
- Roasted potatoes
- Copper pennies (recipe below)
- Tossed green salad
- Deserts – something with chocolate and/or coconut (macaroons, perhaps?!)
- Out of respect for the Jewish tradition, we do not serve anything with milk or egg products during the meal.

Recipes

Copper Pennies

Ingredients: 6-7 carrots
1 stick of butter

Directions: Peel and slice the carrots and sauté in butter till fork-tender, but not mushy.
Season with garlic, salt & pepper.

Charoseth

Ingredients: 1-2 apples, 1/2-1 cup chopped nuts, cinnamon, grape juice/wine,

Directions: chop apples, mix with nuts, add cinnamon to taste and enough grape juice/wine to make a coarse, dry mixture. Spoon into bowls as found in the haggadah

Coconut Macaroons

The only recipe I ever use is the one I've found on Allrecipes: their [recipe for Coconut Macaroons](#) is THE best!

Matzoh Ball Soup

Ingredients: 1 whole chicken, 1 box of Manischewitz Matzoh Ball & Soup Mix, eggs, vegetable oil, celery & carrots (optional)

Directions: Place chicken in a big pot filled with enough water to totally cover the chicken. Add a couple of stalks of chopped celery and/or carrots if you have it. If you don't, then add salt instead. Add pepper too. Cover the pot and set the heat to high til the water starts boiling, then turn it down to low and let chicken simmer. For a 3-4 pound chicken, should take about an hour of simmering. If there is any white frothy stuff on the top of the water, skim it off with a spoon. When the chicken is done, take it out and set aside. Save the water, which is now yummy chicken broth, to use with the packaged soup mix.

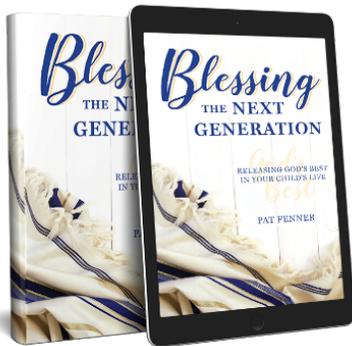
While the chicken is simmering, follow the instructions on the soup mix box to make the matzo balls using the eggs and veg oil, and then put them in the refrigerator. Follow the instructions on the soup mix box to make the soup, using the broth with the soup mix packet! If you need to, add enough water to make 2-1/2 quarts. We usually add, pepper and garlic powder to the soup at this point (you may not need salt because the soup packet has quite a bit). Then follow the rest of the instructions on the soup mix box to cook the matzo balls and finish the soup. You can add little bits of chopped, boiled chicken if you like.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO BOIL A CHICKEN, use 2 1/2 quarts of pre-packaged Swanson chicken stock. It won't have the same homemade flavor or the yummy little bits of chicken, but it is still very good.

Further Reading

Below are listed some other books and/or websites that offer more information and/or background to deepen the Passover experience for you and your family and/or guests:

- 1) [This is a wonderful video](#) from **ReformJudaism.org** that quickly shows and explains the items to put on a seder plate, along with their significance. [Check out their website](#) for a ton of other information and resources!
- 2) The Voice, from the Christian Resource Institute, has [an exceptional page on Passover here](#). Everything from an index of terms and symbols to recipes to history to pictures of place and table settings... *Extremely* thorough and easy to understand.
- 3) I can't tell you how much our family *LOVES* [A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays!](#) I've had this book for years and the pages are all dog-eared and wrinkled. It's a terrific resource to use if you have kids. It served as the Bible curriculum in our homeschool for a few years, as we went through all the old Jewish holidays and learned about them as a family. Wonderfully written: informational and interesting...
- 4) I can vouch for other materials published by Doorposts, but I have never used their [A Christian Passover Seder](#), so view a sample page from this 44-page booklet and decide for yourself! I *have* used and been pleased with some of their other books and posters, though.
- 5) The [International Fellowship of Christians and Jews has a terrific website](#) with Bible study materials, multimedia resources and information on a children's level about this feast. They are the ones who put together the video above.
- 6) In this [post on The Boundless Blog](#) (from Focus on The Family) Denise Morris gives a young adult's perspective about Passover and the significance of the Afikomen.



- 7) If the concept of Biblical Blessing also appeals to you, please check out my other book "[Blessing the Next Generation: Releasing God's Best in Your Child's Life](#)", available on Amazon.

8) Future Passover Dates

Not to be legalistic, but Passover is traditionally celebrated around Easter. Actually, there is a very specific way of figuring it out, [which you can read about here](#). I'm offering the dates below just as a general guideline for you to help with planning.

Remember, as Christians we are not bound by the law, so use this schedule as a way to respect the Jewish tradition while celebrating it in the freedom of our faith! While the feast traditionally lasts for 8 days, the dates listed below are the first day of Passover in the given year. [Source](#)

| | | |
|-----|--------|------|
| Sat | Mar 31 | 2018 |
| Sat | Apr 20 | 2019 |
| Thu | Apr 9 | 2020 |
| Sun | Mar 28 | 2021 |
| Sat | Apr 16 | 2022 |
| Thu | Apr 6 | 2023 |
| Tue | Apr 23 | 2024 |
| Sun | Apr 13 | 2025 |
| Thu | Apr 2 | 2026 |
| Thu | Apr 22 | 2027 |
| Tue | Apr 11 | 2028 |