

CLEARPATH

# THE PASSOVER SEDER

*An Easy How-To Celebrate Passover for  
Beginners*

**JOIN IN THE RICH EXPERIENCE OF THE  
PASSOVER**

*Allow yourself to be enfolded into the revelation of Jesus and  
His sacrifice for you.*

# WHY WE OBSERVE THE PASSOVER

## An Invitation

A few years ago, my husband and I became intrigued by the idea of the Passover meal. We grew up in Christian homes but never sat down to experience for ourselves this beautiful commemoration of the anniversary of Israel's exodus from Egyptian slavery. Two years ago, we decided to try it out on our own. We were so touched by the beauty of each moment. It's really more than a meal or festival, but an invitation to share in the story of God's people. And you don't just get to hear the story, you get to see it, taste it, touch it and smell it. It's an opportunity to teach your kids and confess your faith & hope in God, a way to spiritually connect with those around you. We want to invite you into your own Seder meal experience at your own table in your own home with your own family. And invite someone to the table with you! You will love entering into the story of God's people!

## What is a Passover Seder

The Seder (means "order") meal is an elaborate feast that includes reading, telling stories, singing, eating special foods and drinking wine in a specific "order"! It is traditionally and Biblically experienced after nightfall on the first night of Passover, however, if you don't live in Israel, it's typically the 2nd night. This year, these dates fall on March 30-31.

*It's more than a meal, but an invitation to share in the journey of God's People*





# SO WHAT DO I NEED?

## The Setup

**To Start:** Place three whole matzahs, or unleavened bread, on top of a large plate, tray or cloth, one on top of the other.

Cover the matzahs with a cloth. On a large plate or tray, position the following six items on a plate. Think of a clock and use the 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 and 12:00 positions. You may need a few small bowls for some items.

### On the plate:

1. **"Zeroa"** - a roasted lamb or chicken bone with most of the meat removed. This will represent the Passover offering. It will not be eaten.
2. **"Beitzah"** - a hard-boiled egg, representing the festival offering. (Just one for the plate, but you can make an extra one for each guest to participate in step #11)
3. **"Maror"** - grated horseradish and/or romaine lettuce, for use as the "bitter herbs" (step #9).
4. **"Charoset"** - a paste made of apples, pears, nuts and wine. We'll be dipping the bitter herbs in this (steps 9 and 10). (apple butter mixed with a little wine is a decent substitute)
5. **"Karpas"** - a bit of vegetable, such an onion, celery or potato (used in step #3).
6. **"Chazeret"** - more bitter herbs which can be the same as the Maror, but should have a separate place on the plate (for use in the matzah-maror sandwich in step #10).

We'll also need a wine cup or goblet for each participant, and plenty of wine (about 4 cups each). And a dish of salt water (in which to dip the Karpas).

*\*Matzah is unleavened bread. It's made from flour (from either wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt) and water swiftly combined, kneaded and baked before the dough has a chance to ferment and begin to rise.*

# THE PASSOVER

## 1. Kadesh - Sanctify

Invite all present at the table to stand. Bless the wine (or juice). Then, pour a little less than half of a normal portion of wine into someone's cup and allow them to return the favor (no one should pour their own). We need each other. Bless those present to receive all that the Lord has for them in this moment.

Drink heartily.

## 2. Urchatz - Wash Your Hands

Fill a cup with water and ask someone to pour water over your hands as you hold your hands over a large bowl or basin, right hand twice and then left hand twice. Return the favor. Let this symbolize a washing away of all that you've been carrying up until this moment. Do you feel worried, stressed, or anxious? Maybe you're uncertain of the future. Does the current state of the world have you feeling angry or sad?

As the water pours over your hands, let them relax and imagine releasing these tensions for the time being. Live in this moment.



# THE PASSOVER

## 3. Karpas - Appetizer

Take a bit of vegetable and dip it into the salt water. This represents renewal in the midst of the sorrow and the anguish of the Hebrew slaves. Take a bite. Does it taste a bit like your own tears? God sees every tear and they are precious to him.

## 4. Yachatz - Break the Middle Matzah

Remember that stack of flatbread? Take the middle piece out and break it, but not exactly in half. Put the smaller piece back in the middle and then hide the larger for the kids to find later (or switch the roles if you like). Known as the “poor man’s bread”, it reminds us of the slavery of the Hebrew children. Take just a moment to remember your own bondage. Remember when Jesus broke bread with his disciples on the night that he was betrayed? He used this age old symbol to signify his body about to be broken and then added, “Every time you do this, remember me.”

## 5. Maggid - Tell the Story of the Exodus

Refill each other’s wine glass and prepare to tell/ listen to the Exodus story. The full story is found in Exodus 5, 6:1-12, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12:1-42, 13:17- 14:31 and takes about 30 minutes to read through so I suggest reading through it ahead of time, take some notes and then retell the story in your own words. (You might want to jot down the list of plagues on a note)

Make it as dramatic and memorable as you’d like! Jewish people often tell the story in the first person present, so maybe start it like, “When our Jewish brothers and sisters were living in Egypt, there arose a king who disregarded the stories of Joseph and he decided to enslave the Hebrew people...”



# THE PASSOVER

## 6. Rachtzah - Wash Your Hands Again

Traditional Jewish believers take a moment to wash again (and stretch a little).

Using the same method as last time, ask everyone to stand and take turns washing each others' hands (don't dry your hands or sit down yet).

While standing with your hands still damp, say this blessing:

"Blessed are you Yahweh, God of the universe, who has sanctified us through your Son."

Dry your hands and have a seat.

## 7. Motzie - Blessing Over Bread

Take the stack of unleavened bread into your hands and say,

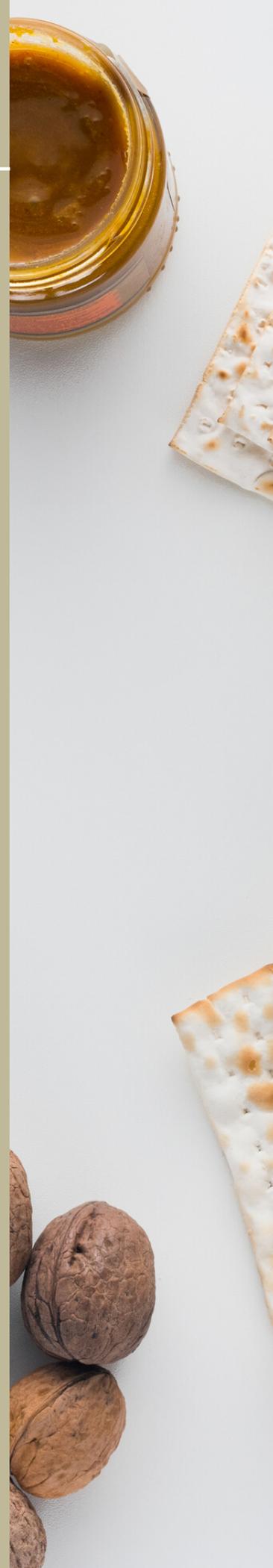
"Blessed are you Yahweh, God of the universe, who brings bread out of the earth."

## 8. Motzah - Break the Bread

Take the top 2 pieces of bread(save the bottom piece for step 10), break a portion off for yourself and pass them around allowing each person to break off a fragment. Now supplement each person's fragment with an extra piece of unleavened bread.

## 9. Maror - Bitter Herbs

Some have the custom of making a sort of lettuce wrap using a leaf of romaine lettuce and some grated horseradish, but either/ or is fine. Dip it into the Charoset and then eat it - all of it. The bitterness represents the way the Hebrew people felt about the situation in Egypt. Some say it was the key to their redemption. The dip represents the mortar that held the bricks together. But also the hope that we have in the midst of our struggle. The moment your bondage becomes "home" to you is the moment you lose all hope of being free. Think about your Egypt. We all have something holding us back. What is the hope held out to you in the Gospel? That's right, it's freedom. What would that look like for you?





# THE PASSOVER

## 10. Korech - The Hillel Sandwich

Take that bottom piece of bread and break two pieces off, put some bitter herb onto one piece and then using the other piece of the bread complete the sandwich. Take a minute to let everyone make their own sandwich and then dip it into the Charoset and say, "This is what Hillel did at the time the temple in Jerusalem stood. After reading in the Torah, he wrapped some lamb, some Matzah and some bitter herbs, and he ate them together." He was sort of a restorer/ reformer and an important figure in Judaism.

For us, recognize that when we tabernacle ourselves for the presence of the Divine, we take in the sweet, the bitter and the tasteless aspects of life integrate into a single host (you) to be displayed for many. Someone has said that the lost need to see the found go through the same things they're going through yet not shaken in our faith, hope and love.

## 11. Shulchan Orech - The Festive Meal

Time to eat. We've eaten a few things already that held spiritual significance, but now it's time to eat to fill your bellies and enjoy the festival.

It's customary to start with the hard-boiled egg dipped in the salt water, a sign of mourning to remember the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. First century Christians also suffered great losses during that great persecution. If you made extra eggs, pass them out now.

After the egg, feel free to pile on some salad and meat (from which you took the bone for the Seder plate). Some family traditions call for fish to be served with salad or potatoes, even an exotic fruit salad. Feel free to start your own menu traditions!

# THE PASSOVER

## 12. Tzafun - Eat the Afikoman

Had enough to eat? Now it's time for dessert, well not really. Remember the piece of bread that you hid? Time to find it. Once it's found, talk about the deep places within us that no one else sees. Yahweh wants to bring us into proximity with who he created us to be. He wants us to be fully integrated. "Wholeness is when the truth of your being becomes the way of your being"

- Baxter Kruger

\*\*\*An option for Christ-followers here is to combine the next step and take the Eucharist or Communion together before some conversation.

## 13. Beirach - Grace After Meals

Pour the third cup of wine, sit back and take time to talk about how God's grace has been at work in your life. Focus on the victories here! Oh, and you may want to release the kids for some Netflix while the adults chat. Let's be honest - they made it longer than we thought they could! They deserve a late-night viewing of Prince of Egypt.

## 14. Hallel - Psalms of Praise

Pour another cup of wine (#4). Hopefully you noticed that the serving sizes are half that of normal or your singing might get a little off key or cadence!

Remember that the Hebrew people were "Passed Over" solely on the merit of their trust. So get ready to sing something that builds that in you.

Any praise (magnifying God's character) song will do. It's a good time to break out the guitar (unless that means dusting it off because you haven't touched it in years!).

Then sit back and sip that last glass of wine with those you love and tell some stories. Don't rush this!





# THE PASSOVER

## 15. Nirtzah - Accepted

Look around and take it all in. Does your home look a little messy? That's because right now, it is being lived in. It's a home. Life is kinda like that. If we're honest, our Exodus didn't lead to our perfection. But if He is at home in us then there's a presence that gives purpose to the messes. And if we are perceptive, we can see the maturity he has brought into our lives already.

If you don't feel His warmth in this moment then it might be a good time to ask Him to fill your being with His presence.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Thank you Jesus for grafting me into your Jewish family.  
Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the  
beginning, is now and will be forever  
Amen*



# GOT ANY QUESTIONS?

*Don't be shy! Email us your thoughts and questions  
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