

What you will need.

Grape Juice or wine, matzah bread - the recipe is on the website - or you can use crackers, bitter herbs you can use fresh parsley, lettuce or celery, cup of very salty water - you may want each person to have their own at each place setting, horseradish or spicy mustard, a shank bone - make one out of paper, hard cooked egg. You will also want to make Charoses - recipe is included on the website, one or two tall candles, matches.

The Seder dinner.

The Seder Dinner is meant to remind Christians about the Jewish roots of our faith and the Passover.

The first Passover was kept in Egypt when God commanded each Hebrew family to take a lamb and kill it, to put its blood on the door posts of their home, then roast that lamb on a fire inside their house. They were to eat it all and burn what they didn't. They were to stay inside all night while the death Angel of the Lord passed through the land and took the life of every firstborn in the Egypt. They followed God's instructions and were delivered from the bondage of slavery and Pharaoh's reign.

Read Luke 22:7-13 and see how Jesus kept the Passover.

Remove the leaven.

Just before Passover, Jewish people go through their whole house and remove any sign of leaven from their homes. If you have kids and want to teach them of how the Bible teaches us that leaven is symbolic of sin you can sprinkle some crumbs on a table(s) somewhere. Tell the kids to inspect the house and tell them what they are looking for. When they find it sweep it up and take it outside to get rid of it. Explain how we should remove unwanted influences from our lives.

Light the candles.

With the family seated around the dinner table have mom (or grandma) light the candle(s).

The Seder Meal starts with God using a woman. Women are of value to God and His Kingdom.

You can talk about how He used a young Virgin named Mary to bring the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

She received the light of the world into her womb and brought forth the Son of God into the world who is called Immanuel, God with us.

Once the candle is lit repeat these words

Blessed are you O Lord our God king of the universe. Who has sanctified us through faith in Jesus the Messiah the light of the world and in His name we kindle the Passover lights.

Pour the first cup.

(During the meal you will drink four cups of wine or juice.)

Begin by pouring a small amount of juice into the bottom of everyone's first cup. Hold the cup up. This cup represents the first "I will" of God. Put the cup down. God's promise was "... 'I will' bring you out from the burdens of the Egyptians." God made this promise to the children of Israel and kept it.

Before you drink the cup recite the following blessing.

Blessed are you O Lord our God king of the universe Creator of the fruit of the Vine. Blessed are you Lord our God ruler of the world who chose us out of all the people and selected us over all the nations and made us holy through His commandments. Lovingly oh Lord our God You have given us the festival days for joy, this Sabbath day and this feast of Passover anniversary of our freedom, a holy assembly honoring our departure from Egypt for you have chosen us and made us holier than any other people and caused us to inherit the Sabbath and Your holy festivals did You give us lovingly and kindly with happiness and joy. Blessed are You O Lord who made holy the Sabbath the people of Israel and the festivals.

Luke 24:14-18

When the time came Jesus and the apostles were sitting at the table reclining, He said to them I want very much to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer. I will not eat another Passover meal until it is given its true meaning in the Kingdom of God. Then Jesus took the Cup and gave thanks and said take this Cup and share it among yourselves. I will not drink again from the fruit of the Vine until God's Kingdom comes.

Now think about how God promised to deliver the Hebrews from Egypt and how He kept His promise to deliver us from sin through Jesus' sacrifice.

Recline on your left side hold the Cup up, say kiddush (kidesh) which means holiness... and drink it.

Washing of hands

It is an ancient custom for the Jewish people to wash their hands before eating. So get up from the table and go to the pitcher of water and bowl, where someone will pour water over the hands of each family member and use the towel to dry them.

John chapter 13:1-11

It was just before the Passover feast Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the father having loved his own who are in the world. He now showed them the full extent of His love. The evening meal was being served and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot son of Simon to betray Jesus. Jesus knew the father had put all things under his power and that He had come from God and was returning to God so He got up from the meal and took His outer clothing off and wrapped it around His waist. After that He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciple's feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.

He came to Simon Peter who said to him Lord are you going to wash my feet? And Jesus replied you do not realize now what I am doing but later you will understand. No said Peter you'll never wash my feet. Jesus answered unless I wash you, you have no part with me. Then Lord Simon replied not just my feet but my hands and my head as well. Jesus answered a person who's had a bath needs only to wash his feet. His whole body is clean and you are clean, though not everyone of you. For He knew who was going to betray Him and that's why He said not everyone was clean.

The karpas (Or dipping of parsley)

Everyone dip parsley or celery or lettuce into the salt water. (Wait to eat)

Read the blessing.

Blessed are you O Lord our God king of the universe creator of the fruits of the earth. As the wine is red in color and represents the blood of the Passover lamb so also do the greens represent the hyssop which was used to place the blood of the Passover lamb on the door post. The salt water represents the tears shed in Egypt and the Red Sea both of which are salty.

Eat the karpas

Explain the unity.

Father or Family Leader explains how the unity is 3 separate pieces of matzah in one bag.

There are different explanations about what the three sections mean.

1. Some Jewish people believe they symbolize Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the patriarchs of the Jewish faith.
2. Some believe it represents the Manna that was gathered every day while the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. God gave them enough for a meal once a day but then on the Fridays He would give them twice as much, so the three pieces are reminders of God's supernatural provision of bread in the wilderness.
3. Others believe it's symbolic of including all Israel in the feast because there are three classes of Jewish people. The priests, the Levite's and the general population of Israel.

As Christians we see the unity representing the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, one God... three persons.

The Family leader will now remove the middle piece of matzah, break it in half and wrap one half in a napkin and set it by their plate. (Remember to go hide it while the family eats their meal).

Put the other piece back in the middle of the unity bag.

Read Exodus 12:1-15

Family leader. Lift the unity and everyone recite the following blessing.

This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt let those who are hungry eat thereof and all who are in distress and celebrate the Passover. At present we celebrate it here but next year we hope to celebrate it in the land of Israel. This year we are serving here but next year we hope to be free men in the land of Israel.

The four questions

Put the unity down and pour the second cup of wine. While you are pouring share the four common questions asked during the Passover meal in a typical Jewish family.

1. On all other nights we eat either leavened or unleavened bread, but on this night why do we eat only bread which is unleavened bread

Answer.

When pharaoh let our forefathers go from Egypt they were forced to flee in great haste. They had no time to bake their bread and could not wait for it to rise. The sun beat down on the dough as they carried it along and baked it into unleavened bread called matzah.

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

Answer.

Because our forefathers were slaves in Egypt and their lives were made very bitter.

3. On all other nights we never think of dipping herbs in water or anything else why on this night do we dip the parsley into salt water and the sweet charoses?

Answer.

We dip the parsley because it reminds us of the green of spring time. We dip the bitter herbs into sweet charoses to remind us that our forefathers were able to withstand bitter slavery, because it was sweetened by the hope of freedom.

4. On all other nights we eat either sitting upright or reclining why on this night do we all recline?

Answer.

We recline because reclining was a sign of a free man long ago and since our forefathers were freed on this night we recline at the table.

Remembering the 10 plagues

Announce each plague put on Egypt. For each plague take a drop of wine from your glass and spill it on a napkin.

The wine represents joy and we take no joy in the sorrows of others.

These are the 10 plagues which the most holy God brought on the Egyptians in Egypt. Blood... frogs... vermin... Flies... Pestilence... Boils... Hail... Locust... Darkness... And slaying of the firstborn.

Read the following history of the Jewish people...

Originally our ancestors were idolaters, but the Lord brought us near. Joshua said to all the people thus says the Lord the God of Israel. Your ancestors dwelt on the other side of the River. Abraham and his father served other gods and I took Abraham from the other side of the River and led him throughout all the land of Canaan and multiplied his seed and gave him Isaac Jacob and Esau. I gave Mount Seir to Esau for his possession, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

- The most holy God made and kept his promises to Abraham saying no of a certainty that your seed shall be strangers in a land that is not theirs and shall serve them and be afflicted 400 years and that nation they shall serve I will judge they shall afterwards go forth with great abundance.

The Egyptians illtreated us and afflicted us and laid heavy bondage upon us and we cried to the Lord God of our father's and the Lord heard our voice, our sore affliction our sorrow and our oppression. And the Lord brought us forth from Egypt with a strong hand and with an outstretched arm with great terror and with signs and wonders. Then the Lord brought us forth from Egypt not by means of an Angel not by means of a seriff not by means of a Messenger but the most holy blessed is He in his own glory as it is said I will pass through the land of Egypt in this night and I will smite every first born in the land of Egypt both man and beast and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment I the Lord.

So, with a strong hand the pestilence was upon the cattle the horses the donkeys the camels the oxen and the sheep a very grievous pestilence. With great terror the divine presence determined to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation by proofs signs and wonders and a mighty hand by an outstretched arm and with great terror the Lord your God did this for you in Egypt before your eyes.

The Dayenu

Dayenu which means we would have been satisfied. The Dayenu is about the Jewish people remembering the compound blessings that God poured out on them while delivering them from bondage. They sing or recite the following...

If He had merely rescued us from Egypt but not punished the Egyptians ...we would have been satisfied
if He had merely punished the Egyptians but had not destroyed their gods ...we would have been satisfied
if He had merely destroyed their gods but not slain their first born ...we would have been satisfied
if He had merely slain their first born but had not given us their property ...we would have been satisfied
if He had merely given us their property but had not split the red sea for us ...we would have been satisfied
if He had merely split the sea for us but had not brought us through on dry ground ...we would have been satisfied
if He had merely brought us through on dry ground but had not drowned our oppressors ...we would have been satisfied
if He had nearly drowned our oppressors but had not supplied us in the desert for 40 years ...we would have been satisfied

if He had merely supplied us in the desert for 40 years but had not fed us his manna ...we would have been satisfied .
If He had merely fed us manna but not giving us the Sabbath ...we would have been satisfied
if He had merely brought us to Mount Sinai but not given us the Torah ...we would have been satisfied
If He had merely given us the Torah but not had brought us into the land of Israel ...we would have been satisfied
if He had merely brought us into the land of Israel but not built for us the temple ...we would have been satisfied

Believers in Jesus Christ also have compounded blessings and can say...

If He had merely provided Salvation through Christ Jesus... we would have been satisfied but He has also given us peace.
If He had merely provided peace through Jesus Christ, we would have been satisfied... but He has given us joy.
If He had merely provided joy through Jesus Christ, we would have been satisfied... but He has given us life more abundantly.
We could go on and on giving thanks for the compound blessings that are ours in Christ.

Hold up the shank bone.

Why did the Jewish fathers eat the Passover lamb during temple times? Because by eating the lamb, God spared their ancestors in Egypt and struck only the houses of the Egyptians.

Scriptures that tell us that Jesus is the Lamb of God.

Isaiah 53: 7 He was oppressed and afflicted yet He did not open his mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter and a sheep before her shearers is silent so He did not open His mouth

John 1: 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and he said, look the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Family Leader hold up the unity

Jewish people eat matzah during the Passover feast because it reminds them of how quickly the children of Israel had to leave Egypt. There was no time for the dough to rise when they left Egypt quickly carrying matzah on their backs.

The Matzah bread paints a picture.
The matzah is unleavened and striped. It is unleavened because it's without contamination symbolic of being free from sin. It is pierced and striped giving us a powerful symbol of Jesus who was without sin and striped with the whip and pierced with nails.

Psalm 22: 6 says

They have pierced my hands and my feet. I count all my bones people stare and gloat over me they divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

Isaiah 53:5

But He was pierced for our transgressions He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him and by His wounds we are healed.

Lift up the bitter herb ... (the horseradish)

What is the reason we will eat bitter herb? It represents how the Egyptians embittered the Jewish forefathers with hard labor, with brick and mortar with all kinds of work in the fields and very difficult forced labor. The bitter herb speaks of sorrow, the persecution and suffering of people under Pharaoh. As the horseradish will bring tears to our eyes so did the great affliction bring tears to their eyes.

Read Exodus 13: 8

Put down the bitter herb and raise the cup of wine

We are therefore privileged to thank, praise, glorify, honor, exalt and reverence the Lord who brought forth all the miracles for our Jewish ancestors and us. He brought them forth from bondage to freedom from sorrow, to joy. From mourning into holy days. From darkness into great light and from servitude into redemption. Therefore, let us sing unto Him a new song saying Hallelujah.
Put the Cup down

Psalm chapters 113 and 114

Praise the Lord oh you servants of the Lord praise the name of the Lord.
Let the name of the Lord be praised both now and forever more.
From the rising of the sun to the place where it goes down the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is exalted over all nations whose glory is above the heavens
Who is like the Lord our God the one who sits enthroned on high.
Who Stoops down to look on the heavens and on the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.
He sets them with Princes the Princes of their people.
He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children.
Praise the Lord!

When Israel came out of Egypt the House of Jacob from a people of a foreign tongue
Judah became God's sanctuary Israel his Dominion.
The sea looked and fled the Jordan turned back.
The mountain skipped like Rams ...The little Hills like lambs
Why was it oh sea that you fled? oh Jordan that you turned back?
You mountains that you skipped like rams you hills like lambs ?

Tremble oh earth at the presence of the Lord at the presence of the God of Jacob who turned the rock into a pool the hard rock in two springs of water.

Raise the second Cup

Truly we can say Hallelujah for the great redemption which God has provided on our behalf. Redemption at the terrific price in Egypt at the death of their first born. Today eternal redemption from sin for anyone who believes, through the death and resurrection of God's Son.

John 3:26

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Say together... Blessed are you oh Lord our God king of the universe creator of the fruit of the Vine.

Recline to the left drink together the second Cup

Family leader hold up the unity

Say... Blessed are you O Lord our God king of the universe who brings forth bread from the earth.

Now break small pieces from the upper and middle matzah and distribute them

Blessed are you O Lord our God, king of the universe who sanctified us with commandments and commanded us concerning the eating of the unleavened bread.

All eat together of the matzah.

Eating of the bitter herbs

The family leader now breaks the bottom matzo into small pieces distribute to each family member

Each person dips the matzah into bitter herbs. The following blessing is recited by all.

Blessed are you O Lord our God, king of the universe, who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us concerning the eating of bitter herbs

Eat together the bitter herb.

The bitter herb speaks of sorrow, the persecution and the suffering of God's people under the hand of Pharaoh.

As horseradish brings tears to the eyes, so also did the great affliction of God's people bring tears to their eyes.

Eating of the charoses (sweet apples)

Break two pieces of matzah per person from the bottom matzah, then put the sweet charoses between them to make a sandwich.

As the bitter herb is a symbol of suffering, the saltwater a symbol of tears, the greens a symbol of hyssop and the wine a symbol of blood, so the charoses is the symbol of mortar, representing the clay bricks which were made by our people in Egypt.

Serve and eat dinner

Family leader slip away and hide the broken half of the middle matzah. Have them close their eyes. After eating dinner and before you come back have the kids search for the matzah and bring it back to you. The leader will give a coin to the finder.

The blessing after the meal.

Let's pray together. Blessed be the name of the Lord from now until eternity. Let us bless our God of whose gifts we have eaten. Blessed be our God of whose bounty we have eaten and through whose goodness we live. Blessed be He and blessed be His name.

It was important that the middle matzah was broken and hidden away. All three matzah's together represent the Godhead. Together they are called the Unity. With that in mind is it not significant that God commanded Israel saying... "hear oh Israel the Lord our God, the Lord is one?" Deuteronomy 6:4

The Lord is One. The word one in Hebrew is ekad which means unity. God is a unique unity.

He is the father ABBA. The book of Romans says, "we have not been given the spirit of bondage again to fear but the spirit of adoption whereby we cry out ABBA father." God is our Father.

He is son (Hebrew word ben).

He is the Holy Spirit (ruach hakodesh).

It was the son of God who became our Messiah. Our Messiah took upon himself flesh, He took upon Himself the name Yeshua or Jesus and became the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The breaking of the middle matzah, then wrapping it up and then hiding it away represents death.

Death is separation. Physical death is a separation of man's body from his soul and the spirit. Spiritual death is eternal separation from God. The Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death and through Adam sin and death passed upon all mankind. As long as the middle matzah (the Messiah) remained hidden it symbolized that death reigned. But when the broken middle matzah was found and returned it symbolizes life and resurrection.

Jesus knew He had to die in order to redeem us

The psalmist wrote... sacrifice and offering you did not desire but my ears have you opened burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said here I am.... I have come. It is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will Oh my God. Your law is within my heart. Psalm 40:6-8

Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them saying this is my body given for you do this in Remembrance of me. Luke 22: 29

Break the middle matzah

Break the middle matzah into small pieces distribute to the family... while someone reads these words about Jesus

Jesus said I tell you the truth. It's not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven but it is my father who gives you the true bread from heaven, for the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Sir they said from now on give us this bread. Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life". He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty. "I am the bread of life." Your forefathers ate the Manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If a man eats of this bread he will live forever. This bread is My flesh which I will give for the life of the world. John 6: 32-35, 48-51.

The broken, hidden, recovered middle matzah all points to Jesus.

He said "this is my body which is broken for you." He was basically saying ...I have come to be broken and to suffer for you so He can redeem each of us.

Jesus was striped with a whip and pierced with nails.
Jesus was the unleavened or sinless bread of life.
Let's eat in remembrance of Him

Pour the third cup of redemption

Hold the Cup up.
Family this is the Cup that represents God's promise to redeem us from bondage. This is the Cup that Jesus raised up in the upper room and said, "this Cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you." Luke 22: 20

The Bible teaches that Adam sinned in the garden and that through him sin and death passed to all men.

In the garden God promised that the seed of Satan would bruise the heel of the promised seed of the woman.

God was pointing to the time in the future when the virgin Mary's child Jesus Christ would have nails driven through His feet and hands. That He would shed His blood for the forgiveness and the remission of our sin.

Say... Blessed are you O Lord our God king of the universe creator of the fruit of the Vine.

Recline to your left and drink the Cup

The empty chair

You may have an empty chair and place setting at your home. In traditional Jewish homes a place is set for Elijah. The Jews are waiting for Elijah to return and we Christians know that John the Baptist already came in the spirit of Elijah preaching that Jesus is the lamb of God, the Savior of the world.

Christians are not waiting for Elijah to return but watching for the return of the Lord. We should live like He is present with us at all times.

The roasted egg and shank bone

The roasted egg speaks of sacrifice which Jewish people can no longer make because the temple was destroyed.

Is it not strange that an egg is used to represent sacrifice? But we must remember that sacrifice not only means death, but it means the giving of life to us.

The shank bone of the lamb is untouched because the lambs are no longer sacrificed because the death of the Messiah satisfied the need for a sacrifice. In His death there is life. In the shedding of His blood there is remission of sin.

Fill the fourth cup... the cup of praise

The Lord has remembered us. He will bless us. He will bless those who receive the Lord, the small as well as the great. May the Lord increase you all more and more you and your children. You are blessed of the Lord maker of heaven and earth.

Praise the Lord all you nations. Praise Him all you people for His mercy prevails over us and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Hallelujah!

Altogether let's say

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the House of the Lord.

The last I will of the Lord.

The Lord says “I will take you to me for a people”

1st Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the lord Himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout with the voice of the archangel and the Trumpet call of God. First the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then together with them we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So, encourage each other with these words.

Hold up the fourth cup of praise and say together,
“blessed are you a Lord our God, king of the universe, for the wine and for the fruit of the Vine and for satisfying us with all your goodness.

Drink the Cup

The Passover dinner is now complete as is our Salvation and redemption complete.

Recite the closing prayer.

May God bless us in this Passover season and bless us in our relationship with Jesus Christ as well as our relationships with each other. May forgiveness flow in our hearts towards anyone with whom we may have ill will and may love flow in your heart towards God for giving you the ability to do that. We pray the church family be able to get back together real soon. We pray for our nation to turn to Christ.
In Jesus Name, Amen

Serve dessert.