

Leader / Host Guide

A PASSOVER SEDER

Arranged by Stacy and Jill Tyson | Truth Seekers Fellowship | www.tsfmemphis.org

PREPARATIONS

Seder is the Hebrew word for “order.” Haggadah means “the telling.” So each new year, when we gather for a Passover Seder, we tell the events of Passover night, in a specific way and in a specific order.

Celebrating Passover can, and should be, just as significant a holiday as is Easter. Not only is the event of Passover a reminder of the Lord God’s saving work in the Old Testament, but it is a critical piece of the New Testament story of our salvation from sin.

Jesus, in one of his last acts on earth, shared the Passover meal with His disciples. In it, He spoke of His coming death. The bread and the wine took on new symbolism from that night forward. Whenever this meal was shared, it would now be “eaten in remembrance of [Christ]” (I Cor. 11:24b). And then, that next day, as our Savior hung from the cross, He became the Passover Lamb for us. The shed blood of God’s one, unique, sinless Son forever paid for sin - past, present, and future.

“And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God” [Hebrews 10:11-12].

No longer would mankind need animal sacrifices for sin. Jesus, as our Passover Lamb, paid the price completely, *for all time*. As we celebrate this Seder, we celebrate ALL of God’s saving work - from the salvation of the Israelites in the Old

Testament, to the coming of our Passover Lamb in the New.

This version of the Seder follows most of the typical traditions of a Jewish Passover. It has been modified to make Christ—our Passover lamb—the center of this celebration. It has also been condensed to make it more “family friendly.” Plan on about 1-1/2 hours for this event, from start to finish.

The Seder Plate:

The most important aspect of the Seder table is the elements of the Seder plate. Here is what you will need for your Seder meal:

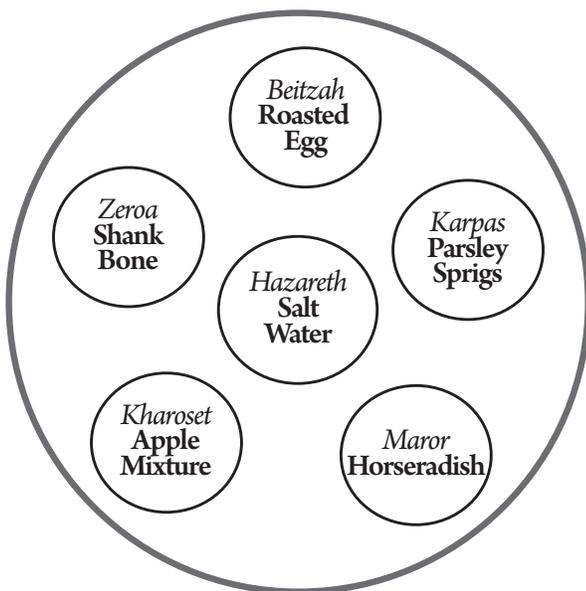
1. **Karpas** - Fresh sprigs of parley. The parsley traditionally symbolizes new life; it is dipped into salt water to remember the Israelites’ tears.
2. **Maror** - Bitter herbs. This is traditionally a dish of white or red prepared horseradish. The maror traditionally symbolizes Israel’s suffering as slaves.
3. **Kharoset** - Mixture of apples, nuts, sweet wine (or grape juice), and cinnamon. The kharoset traditionally symbolizes the mortar the Israelites used to make bricks under Pharaoh. Its sweetness symbolizes the hope the people of God have, even in the most bitter of circumstances. (Recipe below*)
4. **Zeroa** - roasted lamb shank bone (*A chicken bone may be substituted; or, for a vegetarian alternative, a roasted beet.*) The zeroa traditionally symbolizes the first-born lamb sacrificed as the Passover offering.

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5. **Hazareth** - Salt water for dipping the karpas. (Dissolve 1 or 2 tsp of salt per cup of warm water. Can be put in small bowl in the center of the plate or in separate bowls around your Seder table.) The hazareth traditionally symbolizes the tears shed by the Israelites in slavery.
6. **Beitzah*** - Roasted egg. This is a hard-boiled egg (peeled or in shell) that's been put under a broiler until brown and slightly scorched. The beitzah symbolizes the festival offerings brought to the temple. (*This is an optional addition to your Seder plate, as it is not used in our version of "the telling," or haggadah.)
7. **Matzah** - Matzah crackers are not apart of the Seder plate but will be used throughout the meal. These can be purchased in the kosher section of your grocery store and are readily available around Easter. The matzah symbolizes the unleavened bread the Israelites ate on their first Passover night, in readiness of Yahweh's salvation. (See "Seder Table" below for how to serve the matzah.)

If doing your Seder with multiple families, you may want to prepare one (1) plate per family.

Seder Plate Components



*Kharoset Recipe:

- 1 cup peeled and diced apples
- 1/2 cup walnuts
- 1 tsp. honey (optional)
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 TBS wine or grape juice
- Grated rind of 1/2 lemon (optional)

Mix all ingredients. Add enough wine or grape juice to blend mixture. (It should be somewhat pasty.)

Serves 8-10 people (approximately 1 tablespoon per person)

****This is a crowd pleaser at our annual Seder. We would recommend making more, as seconds and thirds will be requested!***

The Seder Table:

There are a few things you will need for the ceremonial aspects of your Seder table:

- A least one pair of candlesticks and candles for your table;
- A large bowl of water and hand towel for the ritual hand washing;
- Three (3) matzah crackers folded in a linen cloth (Fold cloth in quarters so as to have 3 compartments. Each matzah can be placed in one of the cloth's folds.);
- Four (4) cups filled with red wine (or grape juice). If you are doing your Seder with multiple families, plan to have 4 cups per family (*See NOTE Below on other options);
- White cloth for the afikomen (matzah cracker) to be hidden in. (You can also purchase an "afikomen bag" to be used or even use a large, white mailing envelope.);
- Extra matzah crackers on the the table to be used with the maror and kharoset,
- An extra cup of wine to be used as Elijah's cup. This is a ceremonial cup used to welcome Elijah the Prophet and will not be drunk during the Seder.

- A copy of the Seder reading at each chair (or at least enough copies out to comfortably share)

*NOTE: In traditional Seder meals, each participant is given their own wine glass. This is refilled for each of the four (4) cups. We personally like the symbolism of four actual cups on the table that family members share from, but feel free to adjust your meal to whatever works best for you.

Participants

Everyone, from youngest to oldest, participates in the “*Haggadah*” (the telling) of the Seder. However, here are a few extra roles to plan for:

- Leader - This is the person who will lead the readings and activities during the Seder.
- Woman - This is typically the woman of the house. She will participate in “The Lighting of the Candles” at the beginning of the Seder by lighting the candles on the table and reading the blessing.
- Young Child - This is usually the youngest child (of reading age), he/she reads “The Four Questions” that will be answered throughout the Seder.
- Hiding of the Afikomen - A person to hide the afikomen during the Seder
- Selected Readers for portions of the Seder.
- Finding of the Afikomen - All the children can participate in the finding of the afikomen (after it has been hidden). *A small prize can be awarded to the child who finds the afikomen.*
- Child to Answer Door - This is a child chosen to answer the door to welcome Elijah the Prophet to the Passover Seder.

*For the Leader

Seder means “order,” and the Leader is responsible following this “order” in the Passover Seder. Here are a few notes to get you started:

1. Please take the time you need to familiarize

yourself, and be comfortable with, the readings and activities. Read through your copy of the Seder several times. Highlight and make notes!

2. Print enough copies of the Seder readings for each guest to have (or to comfortably share).
3. Think through, ahead of time, who you will ask to participate in the extra activities/readings. (See “Participants” above.)
4. You can also select an appropriate hymn or hymns to be sung at the end of the Seder. You can also have someone else arrange this for you.
5. Most importantly, prayerfully consider the powerful symbolism in this Seder that points to the saving work of our Lord and Savior. It is your job to make this symbolism come alive to your family and guests.

Messianic Symbolism

It is important for you, as the leader, to be aware of the Messianic symbolism present in each element of the Seder meal so that you can communicate this meaningfully to the Seder participants:

1. **“The Lighting of the Candles”** - As the candles are lit, this symbolizes our Redeemer, who is the Light of the World (John 8:12).
2. **“The Washing of the Hands”** - this points to our Lord, as He led this supper, washing the feet of his disciples. As he humbled Himself to serve His disciples, we are reminded to serve one another.
3. **The First Cup (Cup of Sanctification)** - This cup is the cup that reminds us that God has called us to Himself (just as He did the Israelites) and has done all that is necessary for us to live in fellowship with Him.
4. **The Karpas (Parsley)** - this represents springtime and new life that is created and sustained by the Almighty God. We, too, are created and sustained by Him.
5. **The Salt Water** - Representing the tears that

Israel shed in slavery, it is also a reminder to us (as we dip our karpas) that life, especially one enslaved to sin, is painful and bitter.

6. **The Matzah** - Not only does this represent the unleavened bread that the Israelites prepared to be ready to flee Egypt, it has also come to have greater significance for believers:
 - Leaven, in Scripture, symbolizes sin. This unleavened bread points our salvation from sin, and our sinless savior who died for us.
 - The three pieces of matzah wrapped together on the Seder table point to The Trinity - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
 - The middle piece of matzah, that is removed during the Seder, then represents the Son. As the middle piece is unleavened, so the Son is sinless (2 Cor. 5:21). As the middle piece is striped, so the Son was striped by the beating of the Roman scourge (Isaiah 53:5). As the middle is pierced, so the Son was pierced by the nails in His hands and feet and the spear in His side ((Zechariah 12:10). As the middle piece is broken, so the Son was broken for us (Isaiah 53:4).
 - After the middle matzah cracker is broken (in talking about Jesus), one half of this piece becomes the afikomen, or dessert. It, too, symbolizes our Savior. It is wrapped in a white cloth, just as His body was wrapped for burial. The afikomen is then hidden (just as Jesus' body was hidden in the tomb). But it will return to complete the Passover celebration, just as our Lord rose from the grave to make His saving work complete.
7. **The Bitter Herbs (Maror)** - This is eaten to remember the bitterness of the Israelites in their Egyptian captivity. But this has new significance to us as believers. We remember the bitterness of our lives enslaved by sin and held captive by our enemy the Devil. Our lives, like the Israelites, was filled with darkness and despair.
8. **The Kharoset** - This mixture represents the bricks and clay that the Israelites were forced to make in Egypt. However, its sweetness reminds us that, even in the midst of hardship and bitterness, there is hope. And that Hope is now fulfilled in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
9. **Reclining at the Seder Table** - The original significance of this, in the Jewish Seder, was that Israel's bondage was over. The Lord had delivered them, and so they could rest. But we, too, as believers, can now rest from the burden and bondage of sin. We have been rescued through the work of our Savior.
10. **The Second Cup (Cup of Plagues)** - This cup represents the cost of the Israelites' redemption. Lives were sacrificed to bring God's people out of Egypt. So, too, was there a great price for our redemption - the death of God's unique son, Jesus our Messiah. *In remembering this cost, we do not drink from this cup.*
11. **The Shank Bone of a Lamb** - In the Jewish Seder, this bone represents the lamb whose blood marked the houses of the children of Israel, the blood that saved each firstborn son from the Angel of Death. We celebrate with this bone, knowing that Jesus completed the work of that passover lamb. He is the Lamb of God, our Passover.
12. **Eating the Afikomen** - This is called the "dessert." The afikomen is the final food eaten at the Passover. We are meant to leave the table with the taste of the afikomen still in our mouths. Jesus used this bread, in His Last Supper, to point to Himself. He is our bread. And we are to remember Him and His saving work, just as we remember the taste of the afikomen.
13. **The Third Cup (Cup of Redemption)** - This was the "after supper" cup the Jesus used to identify Himself and His coming sacrifice. It was also the cup "of completion," meaning Christ was sent to complete God's saving work through His death on the Cross.
14. **The Fourth Cup (Cup of Praise)** - This is the cup we drink as we look toward the coming Kingdom. We praise Father God for what He has done, and we look forward to the time when we

will celebrate this supper with our Savior in the fullness of the Father's Kingdom.

Further Suggestions

1. We eat our traditional Easter meal in the afternoon before our evening Seder, so that we aren't hungry during the ceremony. This especially helps children get through the readings! If you are doing your Passover Seder on a day other than Easter, make sure you plan snacks and finger foods ahead of the Seder meal so that you can easily make it through the readings.
2. The Passover meal was traditionally done while reclining. You'll discover this during your Seder when the fourth (4th) question is asked: "On all other nights we eat our meals sitting. Why on this night do we eat only reclining?" If you're feeling brave, have the Seder away from the table. Do it in a living room where you can recline on pillows. (True confessions - we still eat our Seder meal at the table! Ha!)
3. Get your children involved as much as possible! Here are some ways:
 - Read the passover story together before the evening of your Seder.
 - Have your kids help with preparations - mix the salt water for dipping, help make the kharoset, put the Seder items on the plate, etc.
 - Ask them to make fun place cards with your guests' names to go on your Seder table.
 - Have your kids create a welcome sign for your front door.
 - And finally, the Passover Seder is uniquely suited for kids to participate, so make sure yours do! Asking the Four Questions, finding the afikomen, welcoming Elijah into the house, and participating in the readings are all ways kids can be involved in this unique celebration.

