

In Remembrance of Jesus!

A Messianic Passover Haggadah

*with tips, checklists, Bible reading schedule, glossary
and more for your home Passover celebration*



“Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He [Jesus] explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27

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By Kathryn A. Frazier

“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD — a lasting ordinance.” Exodus 12:14



“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” 1st Corinthians 11:23b-26

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MESSIANIC PASSOVER IN AN ALMOND SHELL

Passover is a Biblical holiday celebrated in the springtime. It commemorates how God brought Jews out of slavery in Egypt, as recorded in the book of Exodus, and it lays the foundation for our understanding of the gospel of grace. Passover overlaps and leads into the Biblical Feast of Unleavened Bread. Because the two observances go hand-in-hand, we usually call them both, collectively, *Passover*. That is how the term is used within this Messianic Haggadah.

The word *Messianic* comes from the Hebrew root word *Mashiach* (in English, we say *Messiah*), literally “Anointed One.” So, a Messianic person is one who trusts in and follows the Anointed One, the Messiah. In Greek, the same word is *Christos* (in English, we say *Christ*). A Christian is one who trusts in and follows the Anointed One, the Christ.

People who call themselves Messianics usually use that term to identify their emphasis on historically Jewish teachings and customs. People who call themselves Christians, on the other hand, generally focus on the teachings and customs of Gentile believers. There are overlaps, of course, and there are those on both teams who get a little crazy with fear and control. The book of Galatians is a letter just for those who struggle with those extremes. The truth is, even though we see things differently at times, we who trust in the Messiah as our Savior are of one Body.

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:28-29

Though the personal name of our Savior is pronounced differently in various languages, and we know that God understands all languages, Messianics often prefer using the Hebrew pronunciation of *Yeshua*. In English, most people say *Jesus*. Jesus is the name used in this Haggadah.

“With your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.” Revelation 5:9b

The word *seder* literally means “order.” The seder is a ceremonial retelling of God’s deliverance, and it always progresses in a specific order. It is because of this order—preserved for thousands of years—that we believe we know at what point of the retelling that Jesus commented. For example, there are four specific cups to the seder, each one representing a portion of the retelling. Jesus chose only one cup, the Cup of Redemption, to say, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

PREPARING FOR PASSOVER

Preparing your mind

The regulations regarding Passover are listed in Exodus 12, Numbers 9:1-14, and 1 Corinthians 11:17-33. Before beginning the celebration, I encourage you to read what the Bible says about it. Much of what we do for Passover is not specifically according to Scripture. Rather, it is based on tradition, passed from generation to generation for thousands of years.

From the accounts of the Last Supper in Luke 22 and John 21, we know that Jesus followed the ancient traditions. While tradition can give us a deeper understanding of Scripture, it is important for us to know where the Bible leaves off and where tradition picks up, so we don't get confused, and enslave ourselves to "rules" and perfectionism during this celebration of freedom.

Preparing your heart

During Passover, we retell the account of God's miracles and His deliverance from slavery in Egypt. We remember that the Angel of Death spared all who, in faith, applied the blood of an unblemished lamb to their doorposts. And we remember that Jesus, in the same way, offered himself as the unblemished Lamb of God, applying His own blood to deliver our souls from the penalty of sin. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord."* – Romans 6:23 (See also Hebrews 9:11-15.)

WARNING!

"So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep [died]. But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment."

– 1 Corinthians 11:27-31

This is a serious warning. Take care that you do not behave in a flippant or selfish manner during your seder. Confess in prayer any known sin before you begin and thank God for providing the sacrificial payment for that sin on your behalf. Eat and drink before you arrive at the table, so you won't feel hungry or thirsty. Wait for everyone to arrive before beginning. Focus on Jesus as you take it. Do not drink so much wine that you get drunk. Consider the sacrifice of His body and blood. It is better, I believe, to not take the seder, than to take it in an unworthy manner.

That is not to say that only spiritually mature, upright people can participate. Of course not! The "unworthy manner" talked about in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 refers to a lack of consideration that the believers in Corinth showed toward other believers and toward the ceremony itself. It does not refer to a sinful nature or to sinful life choices. If it did, who could take it? No one. Passover is a time to humbly thank God for His forgiveness and to make a fresh start again. So, have fun,

recline, fidget, put your elbows on the table, laugh, sing, and dance, but regard the intent of the ceremony while you do.

Preparing your home

“For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses.” Exodus 12:19

The Bible tells us how to prepare our homes. It’s simple: get the yeast out. The rest is tradition.

The Bible never commands scrubbing down every surface and ridding your home of every last crumb, but the process can be a meaningful part of your celebration, if you choose to do that. The tradition is that if a crumb of food containing yeast is inedible to even a dog because it is very small (smaller than an olive), or it has cleaning product, etc., sprayed on it, it doesn’t count. Clean one room at a time, then render it off limits to yeast.

- ★ Bathrooms, attic, shed, etc. You don’t have to worry about rooms that never contain food.
- ★ Bedrooms, living rooms, dens, etc. Rooms that *might* have had food in them can usually be made yeast-free with a good vacuuming and wipe-down. Remember to get under the cushions.
- ★ Kitchen and dining room Food areas take some extra effort.
 1. Take everything out of your food cabinets.
 2. Put everything containing yeast or leavening into a box or bag to give away. Read the labels; you’ll be surprised.
 3. Sweep or vacuum, then wipe out, the cabinets. Line with paper or foil if desired, then replace non-yeast items.
 4. Clean your stove top, burners, and oven.
 5. Turn your oven on high for about an hour to burn off any remaining yeast.
 6. Take the racks and drawers out of your refrigerator and freezer and clean them thoroughly.
 7. Clean counters, tables, and chairs used for eating. You may want to cover your tables and counters, especially if you have a wooden table that may have yeast in the cracks. A plastic tablecloth will do.
 8. Wash dishes or run them through the dishwasher.
 9. Put away wooden items, such as utensils, cutting board, salad bowls, etc., until after Passover.

★ Cars, purses, backpacks, lunchboxes, ride-in toys, etc. Don’t forget about these! Vacuum the car, shake out your purse and backpacks, and wash lunchboxes and toys.

Ridding your home of leaven should not be a burden. All family members should be rested and happy about Passover, *not* dreading the work!

The night before the seder, all leavened food should be out of the home, except for ten olive-sized crumbs reserved to hide for the children if you plan to do a search for chametz.

SEARCHING FOR CHAMETZ

The night before Passover, lead your children in a search for chametz! *Chametz* (pronounced haa-mets, nearly rhymes with *omelets*) is any kind of food that has leavening. Hide ten olive-sized pieces of bread or cereal with leavening around a room, or around your home. Tip: Write down where you hid them, so you can remove it all before Passover.

Gather your children, then say the blessing:

“Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us concerning the removal of chametz.”

Each child gets a candle (little ones can share with older ones), a feather, and a little wooden spoon. Make sure the candle holder protects the child’s hand from drips and can be set down. Or you can wrap the bottom of a candle with aluminum foil, forming a rim to catch drips. Supervise children constantly while they have fire. You might even want to use battery-run flameless candles.

After dark, children search for leaven in a formal inspection of a dimly lit home, shining their candles high and low to make sure their home is ready for Passover. When they find chametz, they brush it onto the spoon with the feather, and drop it from the spoon into a paper bag. (As an alternative, each child can brush the chametz onto one wooden spoon held by an adult, who drops it into the bag.) When all the chametz has been found, add the feathers and the candles and the spoons to the bag, close it up and put it away in a secure place. All found chametz must be eaten or burned before sunset the next day.

The next day, while it is still light, burn the paper bag before sunset and say the nullification of the chametz to cover any yeast you may have missed.

“All leaven and anything leavened that is in my possession, which I have neither seen nor removed, and about which I am unaware, shall be considered nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.”

The search for chametz is not necessary, nor is it from the Bible. But it really is a fun and meaningful tradition, one that was a favorite with our kids when they were little.

Setting up for the Seder

Plan your seder to begin at sunset, but remain flexible. If someone is running late, you may need to start a bit later. Prepare snacks to have on hand to ensure no one approaches the seder table hungry. Better to start late than hungry.

“When you come together, it is not the Lord’s supper you eat, for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. ...So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgement.” 1 Corinthians 11:20-21, 33-34

Set up your seder table in a comfortable spot. You can use pillows to cushion your regular chairs, or move the table into the living room, where you can sit on comfortable chairs and the couch. Or you can use a low table and pillows on the floor. Whatever you like. The point is to recline and feel comfortable in celebration of freedom.

In addition to a regularly set table, you will need three whole pieces of matza, layered, and wrapped in linen, a pitcher of red wine (you can mix it with grape juice or use only grape juice or non-alcoholic wine, if you like), wine glasses, ceremonial washing bowls and saltwater bowls, and, of course, the seder plate. You can buy a seder plate, Kiddush cups, candleholders, and matza linens that are made just for Passover, or you can use what you have.

The Seder Plate

The seder plate can be purchased or designed specifically for Passover, or you can use any pretty plate. The plate should contain: a roasted lamb shank bone, a roasted egg, bitter herb, greens, and charoset.

★ Shank bone Ask your butcher for a lamb shank bone. This is a common item, and it is not expensive. Sometimes a butcher or grocery store will even offer it for free for regular customers. Roast it and place it on the seder plate as a symbol of the Passover lamb. It is not eaten.

★ Roasted egg To make the roasted egg, first hard boil several eggs, then bake in the oven at a low temperature (around 275° F.) until lightly browned. Make a few because some may split during roasting. It’s okay if your roasted egg cracks, but it is prettier if it doesn’t. You will only need one for the seder plate. You will also need plain boiled eggs. Slice the non-roasted eggs and put on a plate on the table to be used in the ceremony.

★ Bitter herb (called *maror*) Use jarred or fresh minced horseradish.

★ Greens Fresh parsley

★ Charoset This treat reminds us of the mortar used by the Hebrew slaves. It is sweet because even the bitterest of labor seems sweet when we know redemption is near. You can find recipes online, but I just mix chopped apples, crushed walnuts, a little red wine, ground cinnamon, apple

sauce, and honey into the consistency of mortar. Add enough charoset to your seder plate for each person at the table to have about a teaspoon full. Make more if you want to eat it for supper, too. It's not pretty, but it's tasty!

⚠ Use another sweetener instead of honey if small children will be eating it. Even pasteurized honey contains botulism and can make babies sick. I suggest trying maple syrup or brown sugar.

★ Matza You will need three whole pieces of matza, wrapped in linen. The middle matza is wrapped separately, then the stack of three is wrapped together. You can use linen napkins, or linens made specifically for Passover.

★ Dipping bowls Each person needs one bowl of clear water for ceremonial washing and one bowl of salted water for dipping. Float a lemon slice in the washing water and a parsley sprig in the salted water, so participants can tell them apart.

★ Haggadah This is the "script" for the ceremony. Feel free to copy and customize this Haggadah to suit your family, in accordance with the copyright notice at the bottom of this page. You will need one copy for each reading member who will be participating. I also like to make coloring books, so the littlest ones can follow along with pictures and stay occupied at the table.

★ Do not forget Elijah! You will need to set up a complete extra place setting and chair, which will remain empty, for Elijah.

"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction." Malachi 4:5-6

Jesus said that if we are willing to accept it, John the Baptizer acted as Elijah to prepare for the coming of Messiah (Matthew 11:14). Before Jesus comes again, we look for Elijah's coming, as foretold in Malachi. Many people believe that one of the witnesses spoken of in Revelation 11 is Elijah, because the witnesses have power to shut up the sky and stop the rain, which was a central part of Elijah's ministry.

★ Supper There is an intermission in the seder when you will eat supper. This is the first meal of the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Make supper ahead of time and keep it warm. Or make something that can cook unattended, so Mom can relax and enjoy the celebration. She should not have to leave the seder to check on the food. Of course, this applies to whoever does the cooking in your home. And remember, no leaven in the meal!

Children at the Seder

“And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’”
Exodus 12:26-27

Over and over, Scripture tells us that the purpose of Passover is to teach our children, so make it fun for them. Let them lounge in their chairs; that is part of the ceremony. Let them wiggle. Ask them questions. Encourage them to talk and sing and dance and clap.

Give kids a hearty snack, or even a complete meal, before the seder begins. It will be a long time before they will be able to eat, and younger children may fall asleep before the supper. If you expect them to be up later than their usual bedtime, try to give them a little nap, so they can enjoy the fun. Sitting at the table, little ones expect to eat right away, so you may need to provide some finger foods and a sippy cup at their place. I like to provide coloring pages and crayons, too.

Your tablecloth will get stained. It happens. The wine will spill. Supper will spill. Dishes might get broken. Let it go. I’m not saying that you should not teach your children manners or that you should let them run wild. I’m saying that the seder is not a time for etiquette training. It is a time of spiritual celebration.

Most children will not want to eat the maror because it tastes bitter. That’s the point of it. When our children were little, we insisted they put their tongues to the maror, followed quickly by a drink of water that they held at the ready. We did not make them actually eat it, only taste its bitterness. This is sometimes done with tears. For four years straight, our son gagged and vomited at the taste of maror. We gave him plenty of patience and sympathy, saying, “Yes, I know. The taste of slavery is so bitter. No one would ever want that.”

Some parents think this is too harsh. They say the important thing is for the child to have fun and develop a positive feeling toward Passover. There will be time later to taste the bitterness when the child is more mature and can understand. You can demonstrate the bitterness of maror by eating it in front of your child with a frown and a verbal “Yuck!”

Parents would do well to discuss and agree ahead of time how to handle resistance to the maror. Don’t let it become a power struggle or drag on. Remember, the elements are to be eaten in haste. If what you want to happen doesn’t happen, move on.

Another thing to consider: What if your child likes maror? We had one child who enjoyed the taste of maror and asked for more. We took the opportunity to talk about Moses choosing by faith to suffer for the sake of Messiah, rather than enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season. In this case, no second helping of maror represents saying no to sin, even when we like it. (Hebrews 11:25-28)

SEDER ITEMS CHECKLIST

For the chametz search:

- Spoon – one per child (or one for an adult only)
 - Feather – one per child
 - Candles – one per child (littlest children can share)
 - Paper bag
 - Matches or a lighter
 - Ten olive-sized pieces of bread or other chametz (cereal is a popular choice)
-

For the seder:

- Haggadah for each reading participant
- Coloring pages and crayons for non-reading children (optional)
- Head coverings for the boys/men (traditional)
- Head covering for the girls/women (optional)
- Tablecloth (optional)
- Matza linen
- Seder plate
- Wine glasses for each participant, plus one for Elijah
- Place settings for each participant, plus one for Elijah
- 2 candles/candleholders for the table
- 2 small bowls per person—one for salt water, one for lemon water
- Wine and/or grape juice (optional: in a decanter)
- Shank bone, roasted
- Roasted egg
- Sliced boiled egg, enough for one slice per participant
- Matza – three whole pieces
- Parsley
- Horseradish
- charoset*
- Salt for salt water
- Lemon for lemon water
- Prizes for afikomen (Enough to give one to each child; or you can use small bills and coins.)
- Musical instruments (tambourines, maracas, jingle bells, etc.)—optional, but fun.

*Remember to use a non-honey sweetener for your charoset if a small child will be partaking.
Honey can make babies sick because it contains botulism.

Supper

- Plan and shop for snacks, meal, drinks, and sweets.
- Prepare food in advance.

PASSOVER DAILY SCHEDULE

This calendar uses the Hebrew dates. Corresponding dates on the Gregorian calendar change from year to year.

A good source to look up corresponding dates is <http://www.hebcal.com>

Light candles and say the candle-lighting blessing each evening. Abstain from chametz, eat a little matza, and drink some grape juice every day to remind everyone of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread.

13 Nissan: Search for chametz after dark

13-14 Nissan: Burn chametz and say the nullification before dark

First seder at sunset. This is the first night of Passover, “a night of guarding” (Exodus 12:42)

15 Nissan: First day of Passover. This is a sabbath of rest.

Recite full Hallel (Psalm 113-118). Read Exodus 12:21 and Numbers 28:16

Festive lunch meal.

Evening: Second seder.

Recite the Hallel. Begin the Counting of the Omer (offering). This is the countdown to Shavuot (Pentecost), spoken of in Leviticus 23:15-16. There are 49 days from Passover to Shavuot. This is a time to observe our departure from our own slavery to sin and begin the journey toward our metaphorical Mount Sinai, where we are able to receive God’s word. It is a time of self-reflection, repentance, and rededication.

16 Nissan: Morning: Full Hallel recited. Read Numbers 28:16 and Luke 22:16.

Sabbath of rest until dark. Sunset begins the intermediate days of Passover. Work is permitted.

17 Nissan: Partial Hallel is recited. Read Exodus 13:1-16 and 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

18 Nissan: Read Exodus 22:24-23:19 and Matthew 7:12

19 Nissan: Read Exodus 34:1-26 and Luke 16:16-17

20 Nissan: Read Numbers 9:1-14 and John 6:28-51

Evening begins the seventh night of Passover. It is customary to stay up late studying the Bible and rejoicing this night, in remembrance of the splitting of the Red Sea.

21 Nissan: 7th day of Passover. Remember the splitting of the Red Sea today. Partial Hallel recited. Read Exodus 13:17-15:26 and John 4:4-49. Festive lunch meal.

22 Nissan: Last day of Passover. Partial Hallel recited. Read Deuteronomy 15:19-16:17 and John 8:34-36. Strive today for the highest level of freedom, giving yourself entirely to God. At sunset, you may purchase and eat chametz.

23 Nissan: The day following Passover, it is forbidden to fast.

ABOUT THIS HAGGADAH

Assigning Parts

You can download this Messianic Haggadah onto a word processing program, then tweak it to suit your family. If you don't want to do that, you can always print it out as-is then write in the assigned parts and changes by hand. You will need a copy for each reading member who will be participating.

In our home, ADULT #1 is my husband, ADULT #2 is me, and so on. The younger children have shorter reading parts. The littlest children have no reading parts. We encourage their participation by asking questions and singing. We coach the little ones on what to say, especially the Four Questions. You may assign parts any way you wish. You may change wording as you wish. You may substitute Scripture or songs to best suit your own family or congregation.

Remember, Passover is about *freedom*...so do not put yourself in bondage to a written script!

Songs

Except for "Dayenu," which is traditional, the songs listed in this Messianic Haggadah were chosen because they are in the public domain, and they seem appropriate for the seder. In our home, we provide tambourines, music triangles, and jingle bells to add to the fun. You can substitute the suggested songs for ones that you prefer, or you can omit the songs.

After taking the third cup, it is traditional to chant or read Psalms 113-118, which is called the *Hallel*, literally "joyful praise song." This is likely the song that Jesus sang with His disciples after the Last Supper, which was a Passover seder. (See Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26) In order to keep the seder moving and in the spirit of freedom, the Hallel has been omitted from this Messianic Haggadah. You can add it if you choose.

If you have little children, sing some children's songs that they already know and that fit with the seder, such as "My God is so Big" and "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus." Have fun with the music. Clap your hands and stomp your feet! We even take a little time after supper for dancing.

Keeping the Seder Moving

"Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover." Exodus 12:11

Using this Haggadah, your seder will take approximately one-and-a-half hours, including the break for eating supper. It can easily drag on too long and become tiring, so start early and keep it moving. The elements should be eaten in haste, no longer than four minutes each. Wait until morning, or during preparation or supper, for explanations. You do not need to read the Scripture references listed. It tends to disrupt the flow of the evening if you do. They are listed only so you can look them up later.

SEDER

OPENING PRAYER

ADULT #1: Our Father God in heaven, you are the source of all things. Tonight, we remember your mighty acts. With the people that we love, and with these symbols of our joy, we come together for this sacred celebration. With all the household of faith, we are linked to the past and bonded together for eternity. (*To all*) This is the time to rid our hearts of any sin or distractions that may separate us from fellowship with God. Take a moment to make sure that your heart is right with God before we continue. (*Moment of silent prayer.*)

Hostess (or lady of the house) lights the candles.

THE BLESSINGS OVER THE CANDLES

HOSTESS (*covering her eyes with her hands*): Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us in Jesus, in whose name we light the festival lights.

ALL: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has kept us alive and sustained us, and has brought us to this festive season.

THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION

ADULT #1: Removing yeast from our home makes the house holy, confession makes the person holy, and lighting the candles makes the day holy. Now the first cup of wine makes the meal holy. (*Pours the first cup*) This is the Cup of Sanctification. It is our faith in Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, and the Savior of the world, that sanctifies us to live separate, holy lives. Let us take it together and set apart this day.

ALL: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who makes the fruit of the vine.

Each person drinks quickly from their own cup at the same time.

WASHING THE HANDS

ADULT #2 The ancient rules said that hands had to be washed before dipping food into liquid. So, let us now wash our hands.

Everyone ceremonially washes hands in the water that is set on the table for this purpose.

REBIRTH AND RENEWAL

ADULT #2: The wine is red like the blood of the Passover lamb, and like the blood of Jesus. The greens (*holds up greens*) are for the hyssop that was used to apply blood to the doorposts. The salt water (*holds up salt water*) is for the tears that God's people cried when they were slaves in Egypt, and the waters of the Red Sea that God parted to allow His people to cross to safety. We dip the greens in the salt water.

All take a sprig of green from the seder plate and dip into the salt water and eat.

ALL: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

BREAKING THE MIDDLE MATZA

ADULT #1 lifts the container of matza.

ADULT #1: The unleavened bread we use at the seder is kept in linen. The linen has three places to hold three matzas. This shows unity: three in one. Do you know Someone who is three in one? (*Allow children to answer.*)

ADULT #1 takes out the middle matza, holds it up, and breaks it in two. He puts back the smaller piece between the other two matzas in the linen. Then he wraps the bigger piece.

ADULT #2: The middle matza is broken, and the small part replaced. The bigger piece is called the *afikomen*, “that which comes after.”

CHILD #1: The middle matza being broken reminds us of Jesus, who is the second person of God, and gave His body for us.

ADULT #3 We are going to hide the afikomen until after dinner. Later, we can share it. I wonder who will find it? Everyone close your eyes!

Children close their eyes as adult hides the afikomen.

ADULT #1: (*holding up the matza linen*) This is the bread of affliction that God’s people ate in Egypt. Then God’s people were slaves, now we are free! We celebrate Passover this year in [- *your city name*-] but maybe next year in the New Jerusalem.

ADULT #3: God allowed His people to become hungry in the wilderness, so that He could test their hearts. Then He gave them manna. Who knows what manna was? (*Allow children to answer.*)

CHILD #2: God always gives us what we need.

CHILD #1: We are free people, so let us share what we have with others.

ALL: Give thanks to the Lord. His mercies are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness.

TELLING THE STORY

The Four Questions

ADULT #3: “When your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when He struck down the Egyptians.’” The four questions help us tell the story.

CHILD #1: Why is this night different from all other nights?

CHILD #2: On all other nights we eat leavened or unleavened bread, why only unleavened on this night?

CHILD #3: On all other nights we eat any kind of vegetable. Why tonight the maror, the bitter herbs?

CHILD #1: On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once. Why do we dip two times on this night?

CHILD #2: On all other nights, we eat sitting up. Why on this night do we recline?

ADULT #3: On this night we eat matza to remind us of how fast God delivered His people from slavery. It was so fast that there was not even time for their bread to rise. We get the yeast out of our house to remind us to get the sin out of our lives. We remember that when Jesus comes, it will be fast! In the twinkling of an eye, as a thief in the night, and we want to be ready when He comes for us.

ADULT #2: On this night we eat maror to remind us that slavery is bitter, whether the slavery is to a people, like in Egypt, or to sin in our lives.

ADULT #1: On this night, we dip the greens into the salt water to think about the tears shed in bondage. We dip the matza in the charoset to show the sweetness of freedom. The LORD turns our sadness into joy.

ADULT #3: On this night we recline, because we are free. That is what free people did in ancient times.

ADULT #1: To experience the freedom of Passover, we must first experience the affliction.

CHILD #1: God told Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse: and all peoples of the earth will be blessed through you.” [Genesis 21:1-3]

ADULT #2: “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” [Romans 4:3]

CHILD #3: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was the father of Jacob.

ADULT #3: God said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.”

ADULT #1: Israel had twelve sons. The twelve sons of Israel became the twelve tribes of Israel. Israel’s son Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, but God blessed him, and he became a ruler, second in command only to Pharaoh.

ADULT #2: After Joseph died, a new Pharaoh, who did not know Joseph, came to power. He made slaves of the Jews and treated them with cruelty. The people cried out to God to help them.

ALL: God hears our cries!

CHILD #3: “By faith Moses’ parents hid him.”

CHILD #1: “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.” [Hebrews 11:24-26]

ADULT #1: “The LORD said, ‘I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So, I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.’” [Exodus 3:7-8]

ADULT #2: God brought His people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

ALL: God hears our cries!

THE TEN PLAGUES

ADULT #1: The ten plagues that God sent on the Egyptians punished them for mistreating His people and showed that the gods of Egypt were not real gods. There is only one true God, the King of the Universe.

ADULT #2: The plagues on the Egyptians were the result of their own sin. Are we happy that God punished them? [*allow children to answer*] No. We know they suffered, and we feel sadness for them.

ADULT #1: A full cup of wine is for joy. As we talk about the plagues, we take a little bit of wine out of our cups, because of the sadness of the plagues. As we say each plague, dip your finger into your cup, take a drop, and place it onto your plate.

ALL:

Blood [*dip and drip*]

Frogs [*dip and drip*]

Lice [*dip and drip*]

Flies [*dip and drip*]

Disease [*dip and drip*]

Boils [*dip and drip*]

Hail [*dip and drip*]

Locusts [*dip and drip*]

Darkness [*dip and drip*]

Death of the firstborn [*dip and drip*]

ADULT #1: Lord God Almighty, we thank you for delivering your people from these plagues, and we ask for your continued mercy and protection.

DAYENU!

ADULT #2: Dayenu means “it would have been enough.” If God had only done one of His mighty acts, it would have been enough, “Dayenu!”

SONG: Dayenu

THE THREE ESSENTIALS

ADULT #1: The three essentials of the Passover are: the *pesach* (the Passover Lamb), the *matza* (the unleavened bread), and the *maror* (the bitter herb). [*Lift shank bone.*] This represents the Passover lamb that was sacrificed. Its blood was applied to the doorposts. When the Angel of Death saw the blood applied, he passed over, and did them no harm.

CHILD #1: It also reminds us of the blood of Jesus. When we apply His blood to our souls by trusting in Him, death cannot hurt us, either.

ADULT #2: [*lifting the matza linen*]: The matza reminds us of how fast God delivered His people. They did not even have time to allow their bread to rise.

CHILD #2: It also reminds us that even when He was tempted, Jesus did not have any sin.

ADULT #3 [*lifting seder plate*]: The maror reminds us that slavery is bitter.

CHILD #1: It also reminds us that slavery to sin is bitter.

CHILD #3: But we can be free.

ALL: “Freed by the Son we are free indeed!”

THE CUP OF DELIVERANCE

ADULT #1: (*Pours the second cup*) The second cup is the Cup of Deliverance.

All raise the second cup.

ADULT #1: Blessed are You, O LORD, our God, King of the Universe, who delivered us from judgment, and brought us to this night. So, you will carry us to other celebrations in the place prepared for us by Jesus, and in the New Jerusalem.

ALL: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who makes the fruit of the vine.

All drink quickly from the second cup.

SONG: Amazing Grace

WASHING THE HANDS

ADULT #2: Now we wash hands to prepare to eat the Passover elements.

Everyone washes hands in the bowls provided.

ADULT #1: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who has commanded us to eat the Passover.

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

ADULT #1: Let us share the elements in the ancient tradition, just as Jesus did when He was on earth. [*raising matza linen*]

ALL: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

ADULT #1 breaks small pieces from the upper and middle matzas and passes a piece to each person.

ALL: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who has commanded us to eat unleavened bread.

All eat quickly.

ADULT #2: We remember the bitterness of slavery by eating maror.

ADULT #1: It was at this point in the seder that Jesus pointed out that Judas would betray Him. He said, “the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. It was a bitter end for Judas, as he became enslaved to his own sin.

ADULT #1 breaks bottom matza into pieces and dips into the maror. After each piece is dipped, he passes it to someone, until the last piece he dips for himself. Everyone waits until after the blessing to eat.

ALL: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who has commanded us to eat maror.

All eat quickly.

ADULT #1: Now we’ll put it all together. I will give you two pieces of matza, and you make a little sandwich out of matza, maror, and charoset.

ADULT #1 breaks off two pieces of matza for each person and passes them out. Each person makes a sandwich of matza, maror, and charoset.

ALL: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who turns our mourning into dancing.

All eat quickly.

ADULT #3: [*holding up the roasted egg*] The roasted egg reminds us of the blood sacrifices, and of the destruction of the Temple in 70AD.

CHILD #3: “It is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.” [Leviticus 17:11]

CHILD #2: The blood of animals only covered sins. It did not wash them away. The blood of Jesus washed away our sins forever. “And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins.” [Hebrews 10:18]

ADULT #1: The egg also is for the second Passover sacrifice, a freewill offering. It was given out of the desire to have good fellowship with God. To remind us that sacrifice costs us something, and sometimes comes with tears, we dip the egg into salt water.

Everyone dips a slice of egg into salt water and eats quickly.

SERVE DINNER AND RELAX DURING THIS TIME.

REDEEMING THE AFIKOMAN

After dinner, allow the children to search for the afikomen. When it is found, it must be held for ransom by the children, who negotiate for a present or money, before handing it over. The seder cannot continue until the afikomen is redeemed.

ADULT #1: The matza is called “echad” which means unity. The middle part of the matza is the afikomen. [*holding up the afikomen*]. The afikomen was broken, hidden away, and brought back. To redeem it, a ransom had to be paid.

ADULT #2: Jesus is the second Person of the Trinity. Moses called Him “echad”! [Deuteronomy 6:4]. His body was broken, buried, and brought back to life!

ADULT #1: [*distributes a piece of the afikomen to each person*] The afikomen is our dessert. It is the last thing we taste, to help us remember God’s deliverances in the past, the present, and the future.

ALL: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Adult #1: Then Jesus gave a new commandment, and said, “Take, eat, this is My Body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

All eat the afikomen.

ADULT #3: “When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.” [Deuteronomy 8:10]

ADULT #1: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who feeds the whole world by your grace. We thank you for our plentiful land and for the freedom that we enjoy.

ALL: We thank You, God, for your promises, for your commands, and for your love.

ADULT #2: We have remembered the past, how God brought His people out of Egypt. Now we think about the future. Just as God kept His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He will keep His promises to us. We look forward to the coming Kingdom of Jesus, when we will live in peace and freedom from sin.

THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

Pour the third cup.

ADULT #1: The third cup is the Cup of Redemption. It is because of God’s promise to Moses, “I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.”

ADULT #2: “No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him—the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough that he should live on forever and not see decay.” [Psalm 49:7-8]

CHILD #1: “But God will redeem us from the grave! He will take us to Himself!” [Psalm 49:15]

ADULT #3: We look forward to the day when God says, “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” [Jeremiah 31:33-34]

All raise the third cup.

ADULT #1: Jesus said, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

ALL: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who makes the fruit of the vine.

All drink.

SONG: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELIJAH'S PLACE

ADULT #1: A place has been set at the table but not used. It is for Elijah. The prophet Malachi said that Elijah would come to warn people of God's judgment before the Messiah came.

ADULT #2: We open the door, to see if Elijah will come and announce the coming of Messiah Jesus. We open the door to show our trust in God, and to warn others that He is coming again, but the next time, He will come in judgment.

Child opens the door. Door remains open until the following is completed:

ADULT #1: Not unto us, O LORD, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness!

ALL: Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him.

ADULT #1: You who fear Him, trust in the LORD. He is your help and shield.

ALL: The LORD remembers us and will bless us. He will bless those who fear Him.

Child shuts the door.

THE CUP OF PRAISE

Pour the fourth cup.

ADULT #1: The fourth cup is the Cup of Praise. It is also called the Cup of the Kingdom. Jesus did not take this cup.

ADULT #2: Jesus said, "I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

ADULT #3: After praying that it might pass from Him, He took the cup of the wrath of God instead.

All raise the fourth cup.

ADULT #1: In thanksgiving for the eternal life that God has given us, and because we look forward to a better celebration in His coming Kingdom, we take the Cup of Praise.

ALL: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who makes the fruit of the vine.

All drink quickly.

SONG: Crown Him with Many Crowns

ALL: I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies." [Psalm 18: 3]

ADULT #1: The seder is now complete. We have been privileged to partake of it, and may we be so privileged in the future.

ALL: Maybe next year in the New Jerusalem!

All hold hands and sing a hymn. “Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”

SEDER IS COMPLETED. GUARD YOUR HEART AND KEEP IT FREE.

Dayenu! (“It would have been enough!”)

Dayenu (pronounced die-AY-new) is a traditional Hebrew-language song that contains 15 stanzas, plus the chorus. You can look it up online. In our English-speaking home, we sing the traditional Hebrew chorus, but do our own thing with the verses. After we sing the chorus, we take turns speaking our own verses in English, then all shout DAYENU! together after each line. We go around the table for as long as anyone wants to add a line, then sing the chorus again. Don't forget the tambourines!

(Chorus) Da - da - yei - nu, da - da - yei - nu, da - da - yei - nu, da - yei - nu
yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu. yei - nu da - yei - nu.

If He had only taken us out of Egypt but had not parted the Red Sea...DAYENU!
If He had only brought us to Mount Sinai, but had not given us the Ten Commandments...DAYENU!
If He had only given us the Ten Commandments, but not the Torah...DAYENU!
If He had only given us the Law and the Prophets, but not the New Testament...DAYENU!
If He had only given us Jesus, but not the Holy Spirit...DAYENU!
If He had only given us forgiveness, but not eternal life...DAYENU!
If He had only given us a home in heaven, but was not coming for us...DAYENU!
But he is coming for us! DAYENU!

Dayenu chorus (image only) taken from Wikipedia file “Dayeinuscore.PNG”. User Epon291 created for public domain. Retrieved March 3, 2021.

GLOSSARY

(Pronounce KH as a hard, throaty H sound)

Afikomen – (ah-fik-OH-men) The middle piece of matza, which is broken, wrapped in linen, then hidden during the seder. After supper, the afikomen must be ransomed and redeemed before the seder can continue.

Chametz – (haa-METS) leavening or leavened food during Passover

Charoset – (kha-ro-SET) a mixture of fruit and nuts used in the seder to symbolize the mortar used by Jewish slaves in Egypt

Echad – (eh-KHAD) literally “unity,” or “one”

Haggadah (ha-ga-DA) literally “telling”. A book that contains the script for the Passover seder.

Hyssop – (HISS-ep) Plant used to paint the blood of the lamb on the doorposts Exodus 12:22

Kippah – (KEE-puh) literally “dome”; a small hat that covers only the upper part of the head, used to remind the wearer of God’s authority and also to identify with others of the same faith; also called a *skull cap* or *yarmulka* (Yiddish). Plural is *kippot* (pronounced kee-POHT)

Manna – (MAN-uh) Food miraculously supplied by God to the Israelites after they left Egypt Exodus 16:31

Maror (muh-RAWR) bitter herb eaten during the seder to represent slavery and sin

Matza (MAT-zuh) unleavened bread

Pesach – (PAY-sekh or PEH-sekh) Passover

Seder – (pronounced SAY-der) literally “order”; retelling of the Passover account in a ceremonial and specific order

Yarmulke – (pronounced YAH-mah-kah) Yiddish for *kippah*

NOTES: