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# HOLY WEEK

AT FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

## SEDER MEAL GUIDE

APRIL 15, 2025 | FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

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# INTRODUCTION

**Leader:** The first Passover was celebrated when God delivered the Israelites from the bondage of slavery in Egypt over 4,000 years ago. God commanded the Israelites to celebrate the Passover every year and to tell their children the story of God's deliverance.

Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, celebrated the Passover with his followers on the night before he died. It was no coincidence that Messiah chose the Passover for the setting of what is now celebrated as the Lord's Supper. For in the story of the Passover lamb, Jesus could best communicate to his followers the course he would be taking over the confusing hours that were to follow.

As we celebrate this Passover Seder together may we rejoice in God's deliverance of Israel from the bondage of slavery in Egypt and His deliverance of all people from the bondage of sin through the sacrificial death of Jesus, the Passover Lamb.

**Leader:** Let us begin our Passover celebration with a song of worship of our God.

**SONG: (SEE SONG SHEET)**

# LIGHTING THE CANDLES

**Leader:** Every Jewish festival and Sabbath begins with the lighting of candles by the woman of the household. As we light the candles this evening let us reflect on the fact that the Light of the World, Jesus the Messiah was brought into the world through a woman.

**(A woman comes forward and lights the candles and then recites the following prayer)**

**Woman:** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by your Word and by your Son Yeshua.

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

# KIDDUSH—THE FIRST CUP/THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION

**I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.  
Exodus 6:6**

**Leader:** The Lord used four expressions to describe His promised deliverance from Egypt: "I will bring you out"; "I will rescue you from your bondage"; "I will redeem you"; and "I will take you as My people." At the Passover Seder we drink from our cups four times. With each cup we recall God's redemptive promises to Israel and to us. As we begin this Passover celebration let us fill our glasses for the first time.

**(all fill glasses with wine)**

**Reader:** As he began his final Passover Seder Yeshua the Messiah shared a cup with his disciples, and said to them, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes". Luke 22:17-18.

**(A man stands up to say the blessing over the wine)**

**Man:** Blessed are you O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Let us all drink of this first cup of Passover together.

**(all drink the first cup)**

# THE WASHING OF HANDS

**Leader:** At this point in the seder a servant or a young child would normally bring a basin of water to the leader of the seder so that he could wash his hands. As a gesture of humility let us pass around the water basins and serve the person next to us by offering them water with which to wash their hands.

**(Water basins are passed around the table at this point and everyone washes their hands in silence)**

**Reader:** It was probably at this point in the Seder that Jesus taught his disciples the true meaning of servanthood by washing their feet. Let us listen together to John 13:1-17. (Reader reads this passage).

# KARPAS

**Leader:** In Exodus 12 God said to the Israelites, "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood in the basin and strike the lintel and the doorposts with the blood. And when I see the blood I will pass over."

**(leader lifts up the parsley)**

**Leader:** In Israel, Passover is a holiday that occurs in the spring when the earth is becoming green with life. This vegetable, called, "karpas," represents life, created and sustained by God.

**(leader lifts up the salt water)**

**While in Egypt the children of Israel lived a life full of pain, suffering and tears that are represented by this salt water. Let us each take a piece of parsley and dip it in the salt water and say this prayer together.**

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

**Leader: Let us eat the karpas together. (all eat)**

# DIVISION OF THE MIDDLE MATZAH

**(Leader lifts the plate which contains the three matzot)**

**Leader:** While most rituals of the seder were already in place during Jesus' time the tradition of setting aside the Afikomen became part of the Passover tradition after Jesus' death and resurrection.

**On this plate there are three matzot. The rabbis give various explanations for this ceremony-which they call a Unity. Some say that it represents a unity of the patriarchs- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Some say that it represents a unity of worship-the priests, the Levites and the people of Israel.**

**We who know the Messiah see in this ceremony the unique tri-unity of God- Father, Son and Spirit. Three in one.**

**(the leader now removes the middle matzah and breaks it in half)**

**Leader:** Just as the middle piece of matzah is broken, Messiah too was afflicted. One half of the matzah is called the afikomen. The word afikomen is Greek and means 'I have come'. The afikomen is wrapped in a cloth and hidden away until the end of the meal. In the same way the body of the Messiah was wrapped for burial and hidden away for a time. While all of the children cover their eyes I will hide the afikomen. At the end of the meal the children will be asked to hunt for the afikomen and whoever finds it will receive a reward.

**(Leader hides the afikomen while the children close their eyes)**

**Leader:** Just as the afikomen will return to complete our Passover seder so the sinless Messiah rose from the dead and brought us completion.

# MAGGID

## THE TELLING

**Leader:** At this time, I invite everyone to fill their glasses for the second time. We will drink from them later on.

**(leader holds up plate of matzah)**

**All:** This is the bread of affliction that our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Whoever is hungry- let him come and eat!

**Leader:** In Exodus 12:26 we read, "When your children ask you, What does this ceremony mean to you? Then tell them."

**At this time I would like to invite some of the children to come up and to ask the four questions of Passover.**

**(4 children come forward to ask the questions)**

**Child #1:** Why is this night different from all other nights? On all other nights we may eat bread or matzah. On this night why do we eat only matzah?

**Child #2:** On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables. On this night why do we eat only bitter herbs?

**Child #3:** On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once. On this night why do we dip them twice?

**Child #4:** On all other nights we eat our meals standing or reclining. On this night why do we eat only reclining?

**Leader:** It is both a duty and a privilege to answer the four questions of Passover and to recite the mighty works of our faithful God.

**Leader:** Why is this night different?

**All: We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord our God took us out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Had not the Holy One, Blessed is He, taken our fathers out from Egypt, then we our children and our children's children would have remained enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt.**

**Reader #1: My father was a wandering Aramean. He and his household Traveled to Egypt and became a great nation, great and mighty and numerous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us in our captivity and our hard labor, and the Lord heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders.**

**Reader #2: Exodus 12:8-14**

# THE 10 PLAGUES

**Leader:** God sent plagues, one by one, yet with each plague, Pharaoh hardened his heart. As a result his people suffered greatly. With the tenth and most awful plague, God pierced through the hardness of Pharaoh's impenetrable heart.

**All:** On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt; I am the Lord. Exodus 12:12.

**Leader:** As we celebrate this Passover feast we are filled with joy at God's mighty deliverance. But let us also remember the great cost at which redemption was purchased. Lives were sacrificed to bring about the release of God's people from slavery in Egypt. But a far greater price purchased our redemption from slavery to sin—the death of the Messiah.

We will now recite each of the 10 plagues. Each time that we recite a plague we will dip our finger into our glass and let a drop of the liquid fall on to our plate, thus reducing the fullness of our cup of joy this night.

**All:** Blood!  
Frogs!  
Lice!  
Beasts!  
Cattle disease!  
Boils!  
Hail!  
Locusts!  
Darkness!  
Death of the First Born!

**(do not drink the second cup at this time)**

# DAYENU/IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT

**Leader:** How great is God's goodness to us! For each of His acts of mercy and kindness we declare dayenu-it would have been sufficient.

**Leader:** If the Lord had merely rescued us, but had not judged the Egyptians,

**All:** Dayenu!

**Leader:** If He had only destroyed their gods, but had not parted the Red Sea,

**All:** Dayenu!

**Leader:** If he had only drowned our enemies, but had not fed us with manna,

**All:** Dayenu!

**Leader:** If he had only led us through the desert, but had not given us the Sabbath,

**All:** Dayenu!

**Leader:** If he had only given us the Torah, but not the land of Israel.

**All:** Dayenu!

**All:** God has given us Yeshua the Messiah, and he is sufficient.

**All:** God has given us Yeshua the Messiah, and he is sufficient.

# THE SYMBOLS OF THE FEAST

**Leader:** Rabbi Gamaliel, teacher of Rabbi Saul (Paul the Apostle), taught that in recounting the Passover story one must be certain to mention three things:

**The unleavened bread**

**The bitter herbs**

**The Passover Lamb**

**All: What is the Passover Lamb?**

**Reader:** "On the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household...The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door frames of the houses where they eat the lambs." Exodus 12:3, 5-7

**Leader:** We are reminded by Moses that it was the Lord Himself who redeemed the children of Israel from slavery.

**"So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders." (Deut. 26:8)**

**Leader:** "On that same night I will pass through Egypt..."

**All: "I, and not an angel."**

**Leader: "And strike down every firstborn—both men and animals."**

**All: "I, and not a searph."**

**Leader: "And I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt."**

**All: "I, and not a messenger."**

**Leader: "I am the Lord."**

**All: "I myself and none other."**

**Leader: Since the Temple in Jerusalem no longer stands, lamb is not eaten at Passover. This shank bone remains to remind us of the sacrificial lamb.**

**All: Why do we eat this unleavened bread?**

**Leader: The dough of our Fathers did not have time to rise, as the Scripture says, "And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt." But even more than that, the Scriptures teach us that leaven symbolizes sin.**

**Reader: "Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Messiah, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." 1 Corinthians 5:7**

**Leader: During this season of Passover, let us break our old habits of sin and selfishness and begin a fresh, new and holy life.**

**All: Why do we eat bitter herbs?**

**Leader: We eat to remind us of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt. "So the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields." Exodus 1:12-14**

# PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**Leader:** In every generation it is one's duty to regard himself as though he personally had gone out of Egypt, as it is written You shall tell your son on that day: "It was because of this that The Lord did for me when I went out of Egypt."  
**Exodus 13:8**

**All:** It was not only our fathers whom God redeemed from slavery; we too, were redeemed with them, as it is written: He has brought us out from there so that He might take us to the land which He had promised to our fathers.

**Leader:** Therefore it is our duty to thank, praise, adore, glory, extol, honor, bless, exalt and magnify the One Who performs all those miracles for our forefathers and for us. He has brought us out from slavery to freedom, from sorrow to joy, from times of mourning to festivity, from darkness into great light, and from servitude into redemption. Therefore let us sing before him a new song.

**All: Hallelujah!**

**Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.**

**Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.**

**From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised. The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory 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 the earth?**

**He raises the poor from the dust and lifts up the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people.**

**He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children.**

**Psalm 113**

**Song: (see song sheet)**

# THE DRINKING OF THE SECOND CUP

**Leader:** In Exodus 6 the Lord God says "I will free you from being slaves."

Let us recite together the blessing over the second cup.

**All:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

**Leader:** As we drink this cup together let us recline on our left side, as a symbol that we are not slaves but free men and women.

(recline and drink the second cup)

# EATING THE MATZAH

(leader takes the plate with the 3 matzot and distributes a small piece of matzah to everyone at the table)

**Leader:** In Deuteronomy 8 we read, "Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

Let us recite together the blessing over the matzah.

**All:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

**Leader:** Let us eat the matzah, the bread of affliction together.

(all eat)

# BITTER HERBS & THE SECOND DIPPING

**Leader:** As we eat the maror, the bitter herbs, we remember how bitter life was for the Israelites in Egypt. As we scoop some maror onto a piece of matzah, let us allow the bitter taste to cause us to shed tears of compassion for the sorrow that our ancestors knew thousands of years ago.

**(all break off a piece of matzah and put some horseradish on it)**

**Leader:** Let us recite the blessing together.

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

**Leader:** On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once, but tonight we dip them twice. We have already dipped the parsley into the salt water.

**(leader lifts up the bowl of haroset)**

**Leader:** The children of Israel toiled to make treasure cities for Pharaoh, working in brick and clay. We remember this task in a mixture called haroset, made from chopped apples, honey, nuts and wine. Let us once again scoop some bitter herbs onto a small piece of matzah. But this time before we eat, let us dip the herbs into the sweet haroset.

**(all make a sandwich of matzah, haroset and horseradish)**

**Leader:** Let us eat together. **(all eat)**

# BITTER HERBS & THE SECOND DIPPING

(leader holds up an egg)

**Leader:** The egg is both a symbol of mourning and hope of new life. We take the egg and mix it with tears (salt water), remembering the tears shed at the loss of the Temple, and our sadness today over those who do not know the Messiah. The egg is also considered by many to denote new birth and eternal life, since the shape of the egg shows no beginning and no end.

(all dip the egg in salt water and eat)

## SHULHAN ORECH/ THE MEAL

**Leader:** Let us now enjoy the festive meal that God has so graciously provided for us.

**SERVE THE MEAL**

# THE AFIKOMEN

**Leader:** I would now like to ask the children to begin hunting for the afikomen and I will give a reward to the one who finds it.

**Leader:** It is time to share the afikomen, the dessert, the final food eaten at Passover. It is shared as the Passover lamb was shared from the time of the exodus until the destruction of the Temple. It is said that the taste of the afikomen should linger in our mouths.

**(leader passes out a piece of the afikomen to everyone at the table)**

**Leader:** Let us together recite the blessing for the afikomen.

**All: Blessed are you O Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.**

**Reader:** It was at this time during the Passover Seder that Jesus took the matzah, blessed it and gave it to those around the table. Jesus then added the following words: "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19

**Reader:** Let us now eat the matzah, meditating on the broken body of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Let us allow the taste to linger in our mouths.

**(all eat)**

# THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

(all fill their glasses with wine for the third time)

**Leader:** This is the cup of redemption, symbolizing the blood of the Passover lamb. It was the cup "after supper," with which our Messiah identified himself.

**All:** "I will redeem you with an outstretched arm..." Exodus 6:6

**Leader:** The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save..." Isaiah 59:16

It is our own righteousness that falls short. Though the Lord searched, He could find no one to intercede. "...so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him." Isaiah 59:16

(leader raises his cup)

**Reader:** Yeshua the Messiah lifted the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." Luke 22:20

Just as the blood of the lamb brought salvation in Egypt, so Messiah's atoning death can bring salvation to all who believe.

Let us recite the blessing over the cup together.

**All:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Let us gratefully drink.

(all drink)

**Song:** (see song sheet)

# ELIJAH'S CUP

**(leader fills up the extra cup from Elijah's place at the table and lifts it up)**

**Leader:** Jewish tradition has it that Elijah will come back to earth at Passover to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. In anticipation of his coming a place is set for Elijah at the Passover table.

**I would now like to invite one of the children to open the door in order to welcome Elijah to our seder.**

**(one of the children opens the door and then closes it again)**

**Leader:** Those of us who know the Messiah wait in anticipation for the time when he will return for His bride.

# THE CUP OF PRAISE

(All fill their cups for the fourth time)

**Leader:** Before we drink the last cup of the Passover Seder let us together give thanks to God, our great redeemer.

**Reader:** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** Give thanks to the God of gods.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** Give thanks to the Lord of lords.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** To him who alone does great wonders.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** Who by his understanding made the heavens.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** Who spread out the earth upon the waters.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** Who made the great lights.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** The sun to govern the day.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** The moon and stars to govern the night.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** To him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** And brought Israel out from among them.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader:** With a mighty hand and outstretched arm.

**All:** His love endures forever.

**Reader: To him who divided the Red Sea asunder.  
All: His love endures forever.**

**Reader: And brought Israel through the midst of it.  
All: His love endures forever.**

**Reader: But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea.  
All: His love endures forever.**

**Reader: To him who led his people through the desert.  
All: His love endures forever.**

**Reader: Give thanks to the God of heaven.  
All: His love endures forever.**

**Psalms 136:1-16,26**

**Song: (see song sheet)**

**(Leader lifts up his cup)**

**Leader: Let us lift our cups and bless the Name of the Lord!**

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

**(All drink)**

# NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM

**Leader:** Our Passover seder is now completed. Let us conclude with a prayer for the Jewish people through whom God has given us Jesus.

**All:** Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the Word of God That they may continue to grow in the Love of His Name and confess Jesus as the Messiah. Almighty and Eternal God, You gave your promise to Abraham and his descendants. Grant that the people You first made Your own may arrive at the fullness of redemption.

**All:** Next year in Jerusalem!

**Song:** (see song sheet)

**Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.**

**Therefore let us keep the Festival. 1 Cor. 5:7-8**

**Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt.**

**Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. Exodus 12:17-18**



[illegible]This image shows a single sheet of cream-colored paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. In the top right corner, there are some faint red markings, possibly from a stamp or ink. The paper has a slightly textured appearance.



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