

HAGGADAH

Seder Passover Experience

Welcome—Pastor Dave

We're so glad that you decided to join us today!

This Jewish festival is celebrated once a year, around the same time as Christians celebrate Easter, to remind the Jewish people of God's deliverance from Egypt and their bondage in slavery.

John 1:29, John the Baptist declares, "*Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*". He clearly connected Jesus to the Passover Lamb.

1 Corinthians 5:17, *Jesus has become our Passover*

Revelation 5:1-8, *The One who could open the scroll was the Lamb of God*

As Christians, we can also celebrate this festival, seeing the fulfillment of Scripture and the freedom from our bondage of sin through our Passover Lamb.

Let's begin!

Lighting of the Candles—Pastor Pia

(Light the candles on your table)

Lighting the candles signifies the separation of the secular to the sacred. We are now ready to begin the Passover Seder.

Throughout this experience, we invite you to join with us, by saying aloud the readings that a Jewish family might read aloud during their own Seder.

Participation parts will be in bold.

"Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who sanctifies us and calls us to kindle the lights of Passover"

Kaddish (1st cup of sanctification)—Pastor Al

This is the first of 4 cups of juice/wine that we are going to drink together. The first cup is known as the Cup of Sanctification.

Sanctification means to be set apart or to be set aside for special purposes. This cup represents Jewish freedom from slavery in Egypt and their standing as part of a royal nation. And for Christians, because of what Jesus did, it reminds us that he sanctified us and cleansed us through His sacrifice and death on the cross.

Exodus 6:6, "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.'"

1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen, people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praise of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth the fruit of the vine.

Take a drink from the first glass of wine/juice

Urchatz (1st hand washing)—Michelle

Ritual washing was customary in Jewish time. We wash our hands to show that we want to live a life of acceptable service to God; that we want to be clean before Him.

Join me in pouring water over each of your hands and then drying them with a towel.

Karpas (parsley dipped in saltwater)—Pastor Ken

(Hold the piece of parsley in your hand)

The parsley represents the newness of life. It represents Israel in its youth, young and green.

They were going to be delivered out of Egypt, but the Egyptians were still trying to kill them. And during God's deliverance of Israelites, they passed through the Red Sea to escape their bondage.

We have a cup of salt water. The salt water represents the Red Sea, so we dip it once for when Israel walked through the Red Sea, and then the second time for when Egypt was swallowed up by the Red Sea.

The salt water also reminds us of the tears that the Israelites shed when

they were in slavery in Egypt. And it also reminds us, as Christians, sorrow we experienced while in bondage to sin.

Exodus 3:9, "Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them."

2 Corinthians 7:10, "For the kind of sorrow that God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation."

"Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the Universe who creates the fruit of the earth."

Dip the parsley twice in the salt water and then eat the parsley together.

Yachatz (break the matza)—Pastor Kristen

On the Seder Plate we have a stack of 3 Matzas.

These 3 pieces represent the Trinity, God in 3 persons.

We take out the middle piece, known as the Afikoman, and we break into a smaller & larger piece. The larger piece we wrap in a white napkin and set it aside to be eaten later. You can hang on to the smaller piece.

Note: If you have children watching with you, get the children to close their eyes, and then hide the wrapped Afikoman somewhere in the room, out of sight. Hide your Afikoman during the 1 minute break.

The breaking of the bread represents the broken spirits and bodies of the Jewish people in Egypt. It also symbolizes the fact that we need to break off bad habits or negative thinking patterns from our lives.

Deuteronomy 16:3, "...For seven days the bread you eat must be made without yeast, as when you escaped from Egypt in such a hurry. Eat this bread—the bread of suffering—so that as long as you live you will remember the day you departed from Egypt."

Hebrews 12:1-2, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

"Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth."

Don't eat the Matzah at this point.

Maggid (Redemption from Egypt)—Pastor Dave

Watch the video.

To help us remember the Passover story, I am going to say some lines and after each line, you can respond by saying Dayeinu (die-YEAH-nu) or in English you can say, "it would have been enough."

God has shown us so many acts of kindness and grace. For each one, we say, **"it would have been enough"** or **dayeinu (die-YEAH-nu)**.

If only the Lord God had taken us out of Egypt...

If only the Lord God had taken us out of Egypt and not passed judgment on the Egyptians...

If only the Lord God had passed judgment on the Egyptians and not parted the sea for us...

If only the Lord God had parted the sea for us and not taken care of us and fed us manna in the desert for 40 years...

If only the Lord God had taken care of us and fed us manna in the desert for 40 years and not given us the Sabbath rest...

If only the Lord God had given us the Sabbath rest and not brought us to Mount Sinai and given us the Torah...

If only the Lord God had brought us to Mount Sinai and given us the Torah and not brought us into the land of Israel...

For all these, alone and together, we say.

If only the Lord God had brought us to Mount Sinai and given us the Torah and not brought us into the land of Israel...

For all these, alone and together, we say...

This cup is known as the Cup of Deliverance. The juice represents judgment but also salvation. It was through the judgments that Israel was delivered. Take the second cup of juice and dip one finger into the juice and then drop 10 droplets on to our plate, one at a time as we say each of the Plagues.

"One drop for...Rivers turned to Blood"

"One drop for...Frogs"

"One drop for...Lice"

"One drop for...Wild Beasts"

"One drop for...Cattle"

"One drop for...Boils"

"One drop for...Hail"

"One drop for...Locusts"

"One drop for...Darkness"

"One drop for...Death of the First born"

Now say this blessing with me, "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth the fruit of the vine."

Drink the second cup.

Rachtzah (2nd hand washing)—Michelle

Now we will wash our hands again before we eat our Matzah bread. Join me again in washing your hands and then drying them with a towel.

"Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His laws and commanded us to wash our hands".

Motzi (blessing of the bread)—Pastor Gary

We now want to recite a blessing over the Matza Bread.

We use Matza bread because it doesn't have yeast or leaven in it. Throughout the Bible, yeast or leaven has been a symbol of sin. Just as leaven or yeast puffs up the bread, so our sin, specifically pride, puffs us up. The matza bread represents Jesus, because he is without pride and without sin.

"Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings bread from the earth."

Matzah (eating of the bread)—Pastor Gary

We also eat Matzah on Passover, instead of regular bread, to recall the haste in which the Jewish ancestors left Egypt. They left in such a haste that their dough did not have enough time to rise. Just as the Jewish ancestor's redemption from Egypt happened so quickly, we are taught that God's salvation comes in the blink of an eye. Even when our personal challenges seem insurmountable, or we are faced with adversity we should never give up hope that God can change our circumstances and save us in a split second.

Take some of the Matzah bread, share it with each other, and eat it.

Marror/Korech (bitter vegetables & cheroset)—Sonya

We eat the bitter herbs and lettuce to remind us of how bitter the bondage was to the Egyptians! The Jewish nation were enslaved and had to work so hard under Pharaoh's leadership. Horseradish brings tears to our eyes, just like the Israelites felt when they were in bondage to the Egyptians. As Christians, we remember our bondage to sin, and how it hurt God's heart.

During this part of Seder, we take time to recognize where we would have been if God hadn't saved us. In hard times we can still be thankful.

The Heroset looks like the mortar of the bricks and reminds them of the hard work and slavery they were under. Why is something so sweet a reminder of toil? Even the most bitter circumstances we have the sweet promise of redemption.

Romans 7:24-25a, "Oh, what a miserable person I am. Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God the answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord."

"Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the Universe who has sanctified us with His laws and commanded us to eat bitter herbs."

Shulchan Orech/Zeroah (egg & lamb shank)—Pastor Al

On the Seder plate we have an Egg. The egg represents mourning—sacrifices were offered during Passover when the temple was standing. How many times does a chicken lay an egg? Once a day! How often do we sin? Every day. So how often do we need forgiveness? Every day. The egg reminds us to mourn our sin, and to remember to ask for forgiveness.

On the Seder plate we also have the bone of a lamb (and not the whole lamb) since the lamb can't be sacrificed at the Temple anymore.

When Jesus died on the cross the veil was torn (Matthew 27:51). This veil separated man from God. This separation was removed so God could show us that access was made, once and for all through the one sacrifice of Jesus. No other sacrifice was needed.

Hebrews 10:11-12, "Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand."

Tzafun (finding the afikoman)—Pastor Dave

At this point, if you have children and have hidden the Afikoman, they can look for it now. Whoever found the Afikoman should receive a treat of your choice.

1 minute countdown on video to find Afikoman.

This was part of the Seder was inserted by the early Jewish believers of Jesus who were included in the larger Jewish community.

As was mentioned, there is a stack of 3 Matzah's on the Seder plate to represent the three persons of the Trinity. The center piece is taken out and broken in the same way that Jesus came to the world and was broken. The Matzah was broken and placed in the Afikoman and hidden, the same way Jesus was broken and hidden away in the tomb and was later revealed.

At the last supper, Jesus then revealed Himself by holding up the Matzah and declaring, "This is my body, broken for you." It was the unleavened bread, because He is sinless. Jesus said, "As often as you do it, do it in remembrance of Me." The Passover meal was all pointing to Jesus.

"Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings bread from the earth." Eat the bread together.

Barech (the cup of redemption)—Pastor Dave

As was mentioned, there are 4 cups of juice. This third cup is the cup of Redemption.

Exodus 6:6-7, "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I

It was at this point during the Passover celebration that Jesus and his disciples were having together, that Jesus lifted up his cup and said, "This is my blood, poured out for many, for the forgiveness of sins, take and drink all of it, for I will not drink it with you again until the coming of the Kingdom."

"Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth the fruit of the vine."

Drink the wine/juice.

Hallel (singing praise 4th cup)—Pastor Pia

This is the fourth and final cup of the Seder, and it is the cup of Praise. It is meant to thank God for bringing the Jewish people out of Egypt and choosing Israel as His people.

Psalm 136:1, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever."

Psalm 113:1, "Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, you his servants; praise the name of the Lord."

For Christians, it reminds us to thank God for bringing us out of the bondage of our sin and for choosing us to be his children.

"Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth the fruit of the vine."

Drink the last cup of wine/juice together.

Nirtzah (traditional hymn/song)—Pastor Dave

The Nirtzah is the conclusion of the Seder Celebration and is celebrated with singing praise to God for our deliverance.

Thank you for sharing this meal with us! Take time to have discussion and then celebrate what God has done for you!

Discussion Questions

1. What part of the Seder Passover Experience was most meaningful for you?
2. In what ways do you now see that the Jewish Passover points to Jesus, as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world?
3. As you make preparations for Easter Weekend, what things will you be doing or could you do to make Jesus the main focus for you and/or your family?