

The Holy Days

The New Testament Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread

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In this Family Discussion Guide, we review the New Testament Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Why is Jesus called the Passover lamb and why was His sacrifice necessary? How are Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread related and why do we observe these special days?

“Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” (1 Corinthians 5:7).

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The New Testament Passover

Objectives:

- Review and understand Christ’s sacrifice and why it was necessary.
- Family discussion explaining why the Passover is the foundation of the Holy Days and the first step of God’s plan of salvation.
- Discuss how and why Christ changed the Passover symbols.

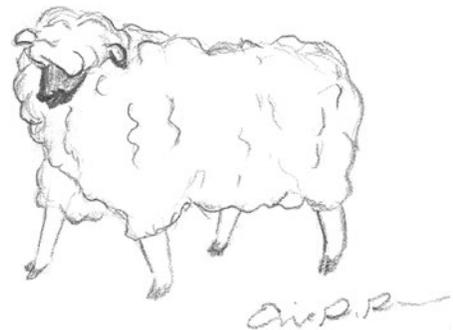
1. The First Passover

Briefly review the history of Moses and the events in Egypt that lead up to Israel and the first Passover. These are found in Exodus 7-10.

- God sent the 10 plagues and lots of destruction on the Egyptian people.
- At the last plague, all the firstborn of the land died if they did not obey God by putting blood on their doorposts and staying in their homes. This was called the Passover.
- After that, Pharaoh sent word to Moses that all the slaves must take their animals and leave Egypt immediately (Exodus 12-13). They left as the first Day of Unleavened bread began.
- The Israelites crossed through the parted Red Sea with the Egyptians following on chariots. The Egyptians drowned when the water returned.
- God saved the Israelites from death.

NOTE: Many families have a tradition of watching the classic movie “The Ten Commandments” during this time of year.

Next, go forward in history to the New Testament time when Christ lived on earth.



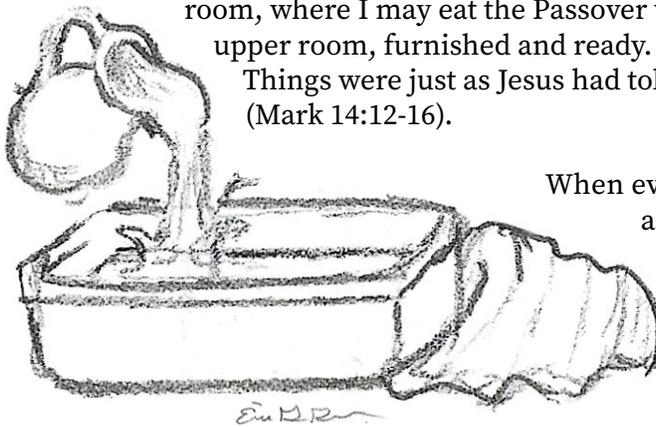
- Jerusalem was a beautiful walled city built upon a hill. The Temple sat on the hill above the city of Jerusalem.
- The country and people were ruled by Herod, the king of the Jews—but were under Roman rule. There were Roman soldiers everywhere.
- Near the Temple there was a bleating of lambs that would be sacrificed for the Passover which began at sunset.

2. The New Testament Passover

Early in the day Nisan 13 (also called Abib), Jesus’ disciples asked Him, “Where shall we make preparation for you to eat the Passover?”

Go into the city,” Jesus said to Peter and John, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner, “The Master asks: “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?”” He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for the Passover there.

Things were just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover (Mark 14:12-16).



When evening came, Jesus and His disciples arrived, and they were all seated. During the Passover supper, Christ got up from the table and took a towel and wrapped it around His waist. He then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel.

When Christ had finished, He sat down again and said, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord and you are correct. Since I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you an example that you should do to one another as I have done to you. The servant is not greater than his lord. If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them” (John 13:1-17).

3. Jesus changed the Passover symbols

As a family, take turns reading John 13:1-17 and Matthew 26:17-30.

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I will not eat it again until what it represents has occurred in the Kingdom of God’” (Luke 22:15-16).

“While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave each of His disciples a piece, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me’” (Luke 22:19).

“In the same way, after the supper, He took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you’” (Luke 22:20).



- a. What are the two new symbols of Passover that Christ used in place of the old symbols?
 - Unleavened bread
 - Wine
- b. What does unleavened bread symbolize?
 - Read Matthew 26:26.
 - Unleavened bread symbolizes Christ's body
- c. What does the wine symbolize?
 - Read Matthew 26:27-28.
 - The wine symbolizes Christ's blood that is poured out for the forgiveness of sins and the new covenant.
- d. The Passover service is a solemn ceremony because it is a memorial of the death of Christ. Our tradition at this service is for everyone to sit quietly as they think about what Jesus went through on Passover. During the Passover, baptized members of God's Church follow Christ's example in everything He did that evening as he established the New Testament Passover.

Discuss and outline with your children the Passover Service and the symbols used.

- a. Foot washing—symbolizes the importance of humble service to others.
 - What takes place? Everyone leaves the room. The woman go into one room and the men to another. We put a small amount of water in our foot pans. Then we wash another person's feet and they then wash ours.
 - If you care to, have your child go through the motions of the foot washing ceremony (taking off the shoe, putting the foot in the imaginary water and washing it, then drying it and putting the shoe back on). When they are finished have them take the pans of imaginary water and pour them into the container and return quietly to their seats.
- b. Symbol of the bread—now pictures the suffering Jesus went through during Passover day, and His broken body for us.
- c. Symbol of the wine—now pictures Christ's shed blood during his beating and when the spear was put into His side.
- d. The singing of a hymn at the end of the service.

4. Why do we need the Passover?

God has given us spiritual laws (The Ten Commandments) that show us the right way to live a happy, abundant life. Whether it is God's law, man's law or rules that are made by your parents, there is always a penalty that has to be paid if the laws or rules are broken. The breaking of God's law is sin and a penalty must be paid.

Romans 6: 23 tells us what the penalty is for breaking any of God's laws. "For the wages of sin is death." Everyone who has ever lived has sinned by breaking God's law. As you have read before, the shedding of blood was required for the forgiveness of sin. Instead of each person paying

with their own lives for their sins, Christ paid the penalty for all of mankind with His life. Only Jesus Christ was great enough to pay for the sins of mankind. His blood was shed so that our sins may be forgiven and we may inherit eternal life.

Without the sacrifice of Christ there would be no need for the other Holy Days. The Passover lays the foundation for the balance of God's plan for the saving of mankind. We are to celebrate the Passover each year to keep us mindful of the great love Christ has for us by paying the penalty for our sins. "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

5. Comparing the New Testament Passover symbols to the Old Testament story

Learning by doing is one of the many ways God uses to teach us about His plan of salvation.

- a. In the Old Testament, when God began to teach Israel His Plan of Salvation, He told them certain things they were to do so that the death angel would "pass over" them. On the 10th day of the first month, they were to select an unblemished male lamb and sacrifice it at sunset on the 14th day.
 - In the Old Testament, the unblemished male lamb represented Christ, who was sinless.
 - The killing of the lamb symbolized the sacrifice of Christ. This was a foreshadowing of the time when Christ would be sacrificed or crucified.
- b. In the New Testament, leavening was symbolic of sin and the unleavened bread represented the perfect sinless body of Christ. Christ broke the unleavened bread, picturing that He would be bruised and beaten for the complete healing of our sufferings, many of which are caused by our sins.
- c. By law, the shedding of blood was necessary for the forgiveness of sin. In the Old Testament, the priesthood sacrificed unblemished animals.
 - This served to teach about the future sacrifice of Jesus Christ when the pouring out of His blood would pay the penalty for everyone's sins
 - In the New Testament, Christ instituted the use of wine to represent His shed blood. The shedding of His blood represented by wine signifies that Christ has entered into a new covenant or agreement with us. Christ's giving of His life also makes it possible for us to pray directly to God the Father.



Baptized members observe the Passover and follow Christ's command: "Do this in remembrance of Me." Thus, we learn by doing.

- What is used to represent Christ in the Old Testament?
- What is used to represent Christ in the New Testament?
- What was used in the Old Testament to represent Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins?
- What is used in the New Testament?

The New Testament Days of Unleavened Bread

Objectives:

- Review and understand the meaning of the Days of Unleavened Bread.
- Explain how the Days of Unleavened Bread connect to Passover.
- Discuss how to observe the Days of Unleavened Bread.

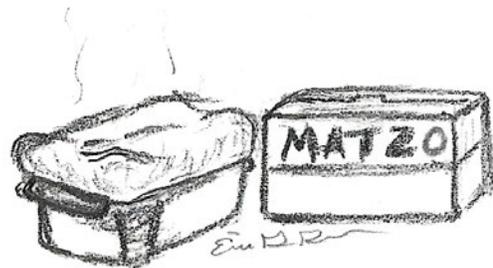
1. What do the Days of Unleavened Bread mean?

Yeast, baking powder, and baking soda are forms of leavening. Leavening causes dough to rise or puff up. Because leavening has the ability to spread throughout a lump of dough and causes it to gradually change by being puffed up. God uses leavening to symbolize sin. Sin also has the ability to spread throughout a person's character and then influence others. This gradual change takes time and if not checked will destroy the distinctive qualities of a godly person.

Unleavened bread has no leavening, symbolic of being without sin. Unleavened bread eaten at Passover pictures the sinless body of Christ. The unleavened bread eaten during the Days of Unleavened Bread pictures putting sin out of our lives.

2. Why do we keep this festival for seven days?

God has given instructions that we are to eat unleavened bread during the seven Days of Unleavened Bread. Seven is God's number symbolizing completeness. Passover pictures the forgiving of our past sins and the seven Days of Unleavened Bread picture the complete putting away of sin.



3. How do we keep the Days of Unleavened Bread?

- a. The Days of Unleavened Bread help to focus our minds on not returning to the sins that Christ paid for with His shed blood. God will help us remove and avoid all types of sin, symbolized by leaven, in every area of our life.
- b. Put sin out and righteous ways in.
 - Watch for sinful thoughts and actions and avoid them
 - Through the knowledge and understanding of God's laws we become conscious of sin—conscious of right and wrong. Knowing that breaking God's laws is sin and that there are consequences. Fill your life with God's righteous ways and there will be no room for sin.
 - What kinds of thoughts and actions are we to watch for and avoid?

Discussion Questions

- Were people still observing the Days of Unleavened Bread during the time of Jesus?
- What did the wave sheaf offering symbolize?

Family Discussion

What is leavening?

- a. It is something that puffs up bread (Matthew 13:33).
- b. Only a little is required for it to grow (Galatians 5:9).

What do we do with leavening during The Days of Unleavened Bread?

- a. Take it from our houses (Deuteronomy 16:4).
- b. Do not eat leavened bread (Exodus 12:19).



What does this teach us?

Leaven represents sin and we are to take sin out of our lives (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

- a. God took the Children of Israel out of Egypt to set them apart as His special people.
- b. God takes us out of our former sinful lives to be to him a new creation.
- c. Putting sin out is a continual process.
 - The Days of Unleavened Bread are a reminder and reinforcement.
 - They are a time to focus on examining ourselves and eliminating sin.

How can we practice taking sin out of our lives?

We can put love into our lives.

- a. God is Love (1 John 4:8) and He loved us first (1 John 4:19).
- b. We are to become like Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:5).

Additional Resources for Your Family Studies

God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/gods-holy-day-plan-the-promise-of-hope-for-all-mankind>

Beyond Today: Christ Our Passover

<https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-television-program/christ-our-passover>

Beyond Today: Is Spiritual Leavening in Your Life?

<https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-television-program/is-spiritual-leavening-in-your-life>

Jelly Learns the Feast Days

<https://www.ucg.org/jelly/jelly-learns-the-feast-days>

Teen Study Guide: God's Festivals & Holy Days

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/teen-bible-study-guides/teen-bible-study-volume-4-gods-festivals-holy-days>

What is Leaven?

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/bible-questions-and-answers/what-is-leaven>

Unleavened Bread Recipes

<https://www.ucg.org/members/recipes/unleavened-recipes>

Passover Timeline: Spring A.D. 31

Tuesday Evening

After sharing the Passover supper and taking the new symbols of wine and unleavened bread, they went to the _____ of _____ .

Jesus prayed to His Father for _____ . The disciples were supposed to _____ , but instead they went to _____ .

_____ brought some priests to arrest Jesus. They paid him _____ pieces of silver to point Jesus out and betray Him. Peter wanted to fight them and he cut off the _____ of a servant. But Jesus showed mercy and _____ the man.

Tuesday Night

At the palace Peter denied that he knew Jesus _____ times because he was _____ . The soldiers _____ Jesus before they _____ Him.

Wednesday

Christ hung on the stake from about 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m, while the sky was _____ .

Wednesday Afternoon

Christ died when a soldier _____ His side. Jesus had paid for everyone's _____ with the sacrifice of His own _____ .

Wednesday Night

Christ's body was put in a _____ .

Thursday

This was the first day of Unleavened Bread.

Friday

This was the preparation day for the weekly Sabbath.

Saturday

This was the weekly Sabbath

Saturday Evening

Christ was resurrected about sundown. Now we can look forward to a _____ body in the Kingdom of God by following Christ's example of love and obedience.

Word Search

Find the words below in the word search. The remaining letters, in order, spell a secret message.

WASHING
JESUS
HUMBLE

FATHER
PASSOVER
FESTIVALS
ABIB

LOVE
TOMB
EXAMPLE
SERVICE

SACRIFICE
HOLY DAYS
LAMB

B	M	A	L	B	S	U	S	E	J
S	E	L	P	M	A	X	E	R	S
Y	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	A
A	E	L	B	M	U	H	E	A	C
D	D	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	R
Y	B	A	F	A	T	H	E	R	I
L	M	G	N	I	H	S	A	W	F
O	O	A	B	I	B	N	D	W	I
H	T	I	E	V	O	L	N	E	C
F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L	S	E

Secret Message (Passover symbols)

Answer: BREAD AND WINE
Secret Decorder: JESUS IS THE LAMB OF GOD!