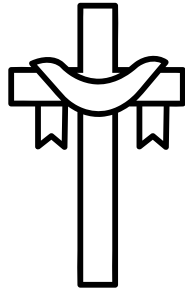


# **SEDER MEAL SCRIPT**

A GUIDE TO THE PASSOVER MEAL AT HOME



**MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES OUT AS THERE WILL BE TIMES TO READ DIRECTLY FROM THE TEXT.**

**TEXTS NEEDED FOR THIS GATHERING:  
(BOOKMARK THEM FOR QUICKER REFERENCE IF YOU WANT)**

**- EXODUS 12**

**- EXODUS 3**

**- EXODUS 6:6**

**- COLOSSIANS 3**

**- 1 CORINTHIANS 5**

**- ISAIAH 53**

**- MATTHEW 26**

**- REVELATION 21**

(EVERYONE WHO IS ABLE TO STAND, STANDS FOR THIS FIRST PART OF THE MEAL)

**Leader:** The Passover meal that we are participating in a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness, redemption and promises. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we who are gentiles, have been brought into the fold of God's people. As Paul writes in Colossians 3:

(INVITE SOMEONE TO READ COLOSSIANS 3:11-12).

"Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

**Oldest female lights a candle and says:** As the light of the World, Jesus, entered into our darkness through one woman, we begin the celebration with a woman introducing light into the darkness of our table. Without Yahweh, there would have been no redemption for the Israelites slavery in Egypt. Without Yahweh, there would be no redemption from our slavery to sin.

**Leader:** This meal is not a meal that we are commanded to participate in (Colossians 2:14-17) but it is one that help turn our minds to how good God is to redeem his people throughout history. Even today, God forgives us our sins and frees us from eternal slavery to death. We thank God for his kindness to all generations.

(ALL IN UNISON):

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, you have made us all sons and daughter through the death and resurrection of Jesus, our perfect Passover lamb. You give us this feast of unleavened bread, the season of our freedom, in commemoration of the Jewish Liberation from Egypt and of universal liberation from sin and its punishment. Blessings to our God who saw fit to deliver us!

(ALL ARE SEATED)

**Youngest participant:** “What does that word unleavened mean and why can’t we eat leaven tonight? Why are we sitting on pillows and reclining? What makes this night so special?”

**Leader:** Let’s turn to Exodus 12 to answer your questions. Here’s how the story begins before we read from Exodus. The Israelite people were living in the land of Goshen. A lush place full of life and greenery. *(Take of the bowl of greenery and distribute some to everyone at the table).*

Just like the land of Goshen, these greens represent life. In Jewish custom, this symbol of life is called Karpas. *(Everyone holds the greens in their hands).*

The king of Egypt, Pharaoh believed that the Israelites had grown too numerous. He feared revolt and also saw an opportunity to build his empire on the backs of slaves. So the Israelites/Hebrews became enslaved in Egypt. Day and night, they would be beaten and whipped and forced to build anything the Pharaoh wished. They wept bitterly and cried out for deliverance. *(Take the bowl of saltwater and invite everyone to dip their greens in the saltwater and then take a bite of the greens).*

The bitterness of the saltwater reminds us of the tears that were shed during their time in slavery. But as we pull the greens out of the water, we remember God’s saving power. They were tasked to make bricks of straw, water, mud and clay. *(Take the Charoset, the apple medley, and have everyone take a bite. This medley looks like mortar to remind us of the labor of brick making that the Israelites had to undergo. It is not sweet because brick-building is sweet, it is sweet because the deliverer is coming.)*

These bricks were used to build anything that Pharaoh desired. And then something even more terrible happened. *(Take the bowl of horseradish and invite people to take a piece of their matzah and dip it in the horseradish).*

**Leader:** There was a call from Pharaoh to execute all the Hebrews’ first born children. Thousands of children were killed as a result of Pharaoh’s decree. Imagine the pain of all of those families who lost their loved ones in that declaration.

*(Invite them to take a bite of the matzah and horseradish; warning, if you are unfamiliar with horseradish, it will make the average person cry so be cautious with kids and the uninitiated).*

The tears that come out when we eat this are to remember the intense pain that the Israelites felt when their babies were taken from them and also to sympathize with the Egyptians who would lose their loved ones in the plague of the death of the firstborn. *(We will get to that in a bit).*

In the midst of all of this suffering, we see God's mercy and love on full display. Here comes our hero king:

**( SELECT A READER FOR EXODUS 3:7 )**

Exodus 3:7 "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."

As the Hebrews continued in their suffering, their resolve grew stronger.  
*(Hold the egg out for all to see)*

In the same way, the roasted (hard boiled) egg can represent the sacrifices offered at the temple; it also represents the Hebrew people who, as they walked through fire, their faith was strengthened. So it is with us in times of pain, as we follow Jesus, that our once weak faith is strengthened!

God's plan to free the people was to raise up a leader, Moses, to be the mouthpiece of God, calling the Pharaoh to "Let my people go!" Just like the egg, Pharaoh's heart was hardened to this request. So God stretched out his hand and struck Egypt with 10 different plagues.

**Leader:** *(Take the cup of grape juice and as each droplet falls onto the plate, in order around the table, say the name of each plague aloud, remembering the lengths God went through to free his people)*

## THE PLAGUES

1. BLOOD
2. FROGS
3. LICE
4. FLIES
5. PESTILENCE
6. BOILS
7. HAIL
8. LOCUSTS
9. DARKNESS
10. KILLING OF THE FIRSTBORN

The first 9 plagues, the Hebrews were safe from without having to do anything. (Exodus 10:23 for example, darkness was only covering Egyptians) but the 10th plague called for action on the part of the Hebrews.

(SELECT A READER FOR THE FIRST SECTION OF EXODUS 12).

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb[a] for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.

*(Take the lamb shank in hand or any kind of bone or symbol therein)*

**Leader:** This bone reminds us of the "korban Pesach" or the Passover lamb that was slain so that the Hebrew people could be saved from the 10th plague.

(SELECT A READER FOR THE SECOND SECTION OF EXODUS 12).

7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

**Leader:** The blood of the lamb was to be painted on the doorposts and the lintel of each household. *(As you describe the doorposts move your arms from side to side and as you describe the lintel frame, move your arms up and down to make the sign of the cross)*. Even thousands of years before Jesus comes and dies on the cross, we see God foreshadowing the cross of Christ here in the original Passover meal around 1500 years before Jesus was even born!

(SELECT A READER FOR THE THIRD SECTION OF EXODUS 12).

8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

**Leader:** This is why we stood to begin and why we are reclining now. It is also why we have unleavened bread tonight. The Israelites were to be ready at a moment's notice to leave the land so, as slaves, they didn't have time to wait for bread to rise or to recline at a meal.

*(Referencing the pillows)*

This is why we traditionally have this meal while being seated on the floor reclining at a shorter table or we will instead sit on pillows. When we were slaves, we needed to be ready to leave, now that we are free we can rest in the peace of our deliverer!

(SELECT A READER FOR THE FOURTH SECTION OF EXODUS 12)

12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

**Leader:** That is why we call this meal the Passover. On this night, the Israelites were told that if they received the work of Yahweh and trusted in his Word, by applying the blood of the lamb to their doors, the angel of death would "Pass over" them. And here in the scripture is the call to remember this night...

**( SELECT A READER FOR THE FIFTH SECTION OF EXODUS 12 )**

14 "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. 15 For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do.

17 "Celebrate the Festival 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. 18 In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. 19 For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. 20 Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread."

21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. 23 When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe

and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

24 "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25 When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26 And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' 27 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.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped. 28 The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

**Leader:** That is then why this night is special and different from all other nights.

**Youngest participant:** Ok, I understand why the Jews celebrated like this, but aren't we Christians? How does this apply to us.

**Leader:** Good question. Let's open to Exodus 6:6-7

**( SELECT A READER FOR THIS PASSAGE )**

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.* 7 *I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.* Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

**Leader:** Customarily, there are four cups that we drink from on this special night, each one symbolizing another part of this promise that we just read.

*(Invite everyone to grab their cups and drink to the first two promises after they are declared.)*

**Leader:** The first promise Yahweh (God) makes to his people is that they will be set apart or brought out.

So we drink to the promise that God has made to set us apart and call us his own. Taking a drink was a symbolic way of participating in or sealing a promise. Just as the Israelites were delivered through the waters of the Red Sea, so through baptism do we declare that we are set apart in Christ.

*(All drink to this promise of being set apart)*

**Leader:** The second promise God makes is that we will be freed from the yoke of slavery. In the same way, we rejoice and drink to the promise of being saved from our personal Egypt, sin! Through the blood of the lamb, we are free in Jesus death and resurrection. The lamb that was slain in Egypt freed the Israelites from physical bondage and the perfect lamb of God has freed us spiritual bondage forever!

*(All drink to this promise of being set free)*

**Leader:** The third and fourth cup are reserved for after the meal.

The time has come now to take the Matzah in hand to give God thanks for providing for us. The matzah bread is made without leaven or yeast.

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5:6 - 7.**

Note how Paul talks about how leaven is like sin and the need for the Passover lamb to eradicate our sin.

*(Instruct everyone to hold up a piece of their matzah bread and observe it's uniqueness).*

**READ ISAIAH 53:3 - 6**

*(See if any of the observations about the matzah include any of the following:)*

**-MATZAH IS WITHOUT LEAVEN  
JESUS IS WITHOUT SIN**

**-MATZAH IS STRIPED FROM BEING TOASTED  
JESUS IS STRIPED FROM THE WHIPS OF THE ROMANS**

**-MATZAH IS PIERCED  
JESUS WAS PIERCED FOR OUR SINS**

**-MATZAH ISN'T DESIRABLE TO THE SENSES, REJECTED BY MANY  
JESUS WASN'T BEAUTIFUL IN APPEARANCE AND WAS ALSO  
REJECTED.**

**Leader:** A favorite custom of the younger people during this celebration is the hiding of the afikomen (*meaning that which is to come*).

*(The leader says a prayer of thanks for the meal and takes 3 pieces of matzah- symbolizing the trinity- in hand stacked on one another. He takes the middle or "second" piece and breaks it in half)*

- 1. The leader takes one half and gives it to the participants for each to take a piece and eat.*
- 2. The other half is the afikomen which is going to be hidden. The leader leaves the room and hides it somewhere in the house.*
- 3. After the meal, the first child to find the afikomen will get a prize.*

**IT'S TIME FOR THE MEAL!**

*During the main dinner time, this is a great time to institute traditions with your family. In the Hilken house, we will go around the table and answer 3 questions.*

- 1. What is something that God has done for you that you are so grateful for?*
- 2. What characteristic of God resonates with you most in this season of life and why?*
- 3. What is a request that you're making to God about the future?*

This is also a great time for us to share our personal family stories of God's goodness and faithfulness! How can we demonstrate how we needed God and how God came through even sometimes in ways that we didn't want or expect? Paige and I love to tell our story of how we met, grew in love, experienced grace and mercy with each other and with God and how we've committed to raise a family in Jesus. Make this most special meal time whatever you want but let's not waste the uniqueness of the experience together! Let's talk about God and his deliverance!

## AFTER THE MEAL IS OVER . . .

**Leader:** It is time for the last two cups of Passover. Remember these cups are a part of God's promises in Exodus 6.

The third cup is the cup of redemption. Here we focus on God's promise to "redeem [us] with an outstretched arm"

To redeem something means to buy it back. With the theme of slavery strong in the text, we know that our slavery to sin cost us a lot. In fact, Romans 6 says that our slavery to sin should cost us our lives both now and forever. The price to buy us from sin, our slave master, was too high for any of us to pay. As Isaiah 53 said, we have all turned from God and in doing so have become slaves to sin. Who can rescue us? Who has the power to save us? Who will drink the cup of redemption that we can't drink?

## LET ' S O P E N T O M A T T H E W 26 .

### T H E L A S T S U P P E R

17 On the first day of the *Festival of Unleavened Bread*, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the *Passover*?" 18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the *Passover* with my disciples at your house.'" 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the *Passover*. 20 When evening came, Jesus was *reclining* at the table with the Twelve...(down to verse 26)

26 While they were eating, **Jesus took bread**, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; **this is my body.**" 27 Then he took **a cup**, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is **my blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for the *forgiveness of sins*. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.  
(Chris Hilken's emphasis added)

**Leader:** You see what Jesus is doing with the cup after the meal? He is pointing all of history towards himself. He is declaring himself the MESSIAH! Jesus is saying that he is the Redemption plan. Our great deliverer. For generations this cup has been a mystery and now that mystery is revealed. Jesus is our redemption!

Jesus is our Passover lamb! He was the redemption plan going all the way back to creation, through the exodus story, into the first century and now for you even today! Praise be to God and to the lamb. His death has freed us from the yoke of slavery to sin.

The story of the exodus and the Passover is our story too!

- We were all slaves to sin (*Egypt*)
- God sent a deliverer named Jesus (*Moses*)
- God's justice came for us because of our sin (*10<sup>th</sup> Plague, death*)
- But we receive Jesus, the sacrifice that God offered (*Lamb*)
- And we apply his blood shed for sins (*Blood of the lamb*)
- To our hearts and our lives (*Doorposts*)
- When death comes I will be "Passed over" because of the blood of the lamb!

Jesus's resurrection shows that our God has accepted the substitute sacrifice in my place! Now we will be resurrected as well on the last day! (We drink to the sealing of the promise of our salvation in Christ's work on the cross and his resurrection)

**Leader:** It is time to remember the resurrection of Jesus by finding the afikomen that I have hidden. Whoever finds it will get a prize.

**(AFTER THE AFIKOMEN HAS BEEN FOUND).**

**Leader:** We know that Christ's body was broken and then hidden in the tomb but then on the third day he came back from the dead. And now he sits at the right hand of God in glory!

*(Place the afikomen back in between the other two pieces of Matzah and take the bottom or third piece out)*

**Leader:** Jesus ascended into heaven and sent his Spirit to dwell with us until the day we get to see him face to face.

**Leader:** We conclude our meal by celebrating the fourth cup. The promise from Exodus 6 is that God will "take us as his own people."

*(As we drink of this last and final cup of the meal, have someone in your family go open your front door or back door. This custom is to see if Elijah will come and announce the coming savior. However, we know as Christians, messiah has already come in Jesus! So we open it to invite Christ into our homes and to welcome Christ to return and restore his kingdom forever here on earth)*

**Leader:** We finish by drinking to God's promise that Jesus will come back in glory to take us all to be with him. Let's open to revelation chapter 21:1-6. We will stand to remember that we too must be ready at any moment if Jesus calls us home.

**( R E A D   R E V E L A T I O N   2 1 : 1 - 6 )**

Just like the Israelites who needed to be prepared for whatever God wanted them to do, we must also stand in readiness for the gospel of Christ. Ready to share. Ready to help. Ready to be generous. Ready to forgive those around us. And ready to experience eternity with Jesus, our perfect Passover lamb forever.

*(The Israelites, Jesus and Jews to this day finish the Passover meal with song. Put on your family's favorite worship song and let's end in praise to our deliverer. Here are a couple relevant song suggestions:*

**Jesus Paid it all      Nothing but the Blood      Revelation Song      No Longer Slaves**