

PASSOVER LEADER NOTES

Wyn Laidig (www.TasteTheHoney.org)

CELEBRATING PASSOVER AT HOME

You don't have to know a lot to celebrate Passover. There are really not very many rules. So make it fun; make it work for you and your family and friends. There is a LOT of Jewish tradition with Passover, and you can keep some of that if you want, but you don't have to. Scripture just says to celebrate this day, and it doesn't give too many instructions. So that's what we want to do. There were some traditions by the time of Yeshua and we'll try and keep those, since He did.

By the way, I hope you don't mind that I tend to use Jesus' real name, his Hebrew name, which was Yeshua. I personally think it honors Him to use his real name, and not an English version of it. And it helps remind me that he was Jewish and not American, and that his customs, traditions, values and lifestyle were very different than mine. I need to be reminded of that!

So we'll try and keep Passover much like Yeshua did. But still, there is LOTS of flexibility here. What we will do tonight is just one way. Not THE WAY. But it's a good starting point for us. And one that I hope will be fun, meaningful, and also Scriptural.

Here's a broad outline of what celebrating Passover would look like. We'll go through each of these tonight.

We'll do it together, so next year with the materials we give you, you'll be able to easily do it yourself.

- **Preparing Your Home – no leaven!**

1. Candles & Opening Blessing
2. Talk about God's Calendar
3. Talk about What Passover Means
4. First part of "The Seder"
5. Enjoy the Passover Dinner
6. Second part of "The Seder"
7. Closing Blessing

PREPARING YOUR HOME – NO LEAVEN!

We are given a neat picture in Scripture as a reminder of how to keep sin from spreading in our lives. We are told in preparation for this time of Passover and the following week of Unleavened Bread, we are to remove ALL leaven from our house.

- **Remove everything with leaven from your house**

Exodus 12:19

For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a foreigner or a native of the land.

- **Leaven is a picture of sin, and how sin spreads**

1 Corinthians 5:6–8

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 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. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

This is an interesting verse because we have a CLEAR passage of New Testament Scripture where Paul is writing to a GENTILE church in Greece and talking to them about how to celebrate Passover. It wasn't ever just for Jews... God intends all people who are called by His name to celebrate the Passover, as well as the other special times, which we'll talk about shortly.

This is also an awesome passage for the Passover celebration, because it links together leaven and sin, and ties it with celebrating the Passover and with the Messiah, our Passover Lamb.

As you look for leaven in your home, ask God to show you through His Spirit what other "leaven" you've allowed in your life (intentionally or unintentionally) that is dishonoring to Him (i.e. books, pictures, magazines, movies, websites, games, music, addictive substances, etc.). Take this opportunity to get rid of these things.

1. CANDLES & OPENING BLESSING

So you are at home. Perhaps you've invited your extended family or maybe some friends or neighbors to celebrate Passover with you. How do you start? We'll you start by lighting the Passover candles at the table.

There are usually 2 candles that are lit, but that is just tradition. You can light as many as you want. If you have a menorah, you can light that.

Another tradition is that the most honored woman (the most experienced – oldest) gets to light the candles and say the opening blessing.

- **The most-honored (oldest) woman lights the candles and then says the opening prayer.**

The traditional blessings, if you want to use the, always start out in the same way. I start with that, and then I just add to that prayer whatever I want. I try to include something about the Messiah, and maybe something about what he's called us to do. It's a prayer. Make it YOUR prayer.

Blessed are you YHWH, our God, King of the Universe, who set us apart by your Word. In your name we light the Passover lights, and in doing so we remember your Son, Yeshua the Messiah, who is the Light of the World, and who also called us to be lights to the world.

And then perhaps there are some Scriptures that you want to have someone at your table read. I chose a few that seemed appropriate.

Psalm 27:1

YHWH is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
YHWH is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

John 8:12

Again Yeshua spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Matthew 5:14

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

2. TALK ABOUT GOD’S CALENDAR

If you have friends over for Passover, it is very likely that won’t be too familiar with it. So it can be good to start with talking about WHY we celebrate this day, and how it fits into the overall calendar that God established for his people in Scripture.

God asked his people to remember seven special times each year, called Appointed Times. Some call them feasts or festivals. Actually many Christians call them the “Jewish Feasts” and think they are just for the people of Israel, or only for Old Testament days. That’s why it can be helpful to start Passover by just briefly telling people how ALL of these Appointed Times are full

of meaning and have everything to do Yeshua and with us as Christians.

Leviticus 23:4

These are the appointed times of YHWH, the holy gatherings, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them.

Scripture says these the appointed times of YHWH. In other Scriptures God calls them “my appointed times”. So they are not Jewish holidays – that are God’s special days. And for good reason. They symbolically explain the whole plan of salvation. And it has everything to do with Yeshua.

- **Seven annual Appointed Times (Leviticus 23)**
- **Each has historical meaning + future fulfillment**

1. Passover (Pesach)

- sacrifice of lamb prevented death in Egypt
- → sacrifice of Yeshua on the cross

2. Unleavened Bread (Matsah)

- Exodus through Red Sea to a new beginning
- → Yeshua buried & resurrected as new beginning

3. Firstfruits (Reshith)

- first of the barley harvest offered to YHWH
- → Yeshua is resurrected as firstfruit of harvest

4. Pentecost (Shavuot)

- God's Word given on stone tablets
(and Yeshua became the Word in flesh)
- → Holy Spirit writes Word on people's hearts

5. Day of Trumpets (Yom Teruah)

- Trumpet blown to anoint Kings and Priests, and to call people for battle or for special gathering
- → Yeshua returns to gather his people

6. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

- High Priest stands in YHWH's presence
- → people stand before YHWH at final judgment
(and because of Yeshua we are forgiven!)

7. Tabernacles (Sukkot)

- Living with YHWH in the desert
- → Living with Yeshua when he returns

From beginning to end, God established these Appointed Times to show us pictures of His plan of Salvation. Pictures of what He would do through his Son, Yeshua.

Why wouldn't we want to celebrate these?

3. TALK ABOUT WHAT PASSOVER MEANS

A) THE FIRST PASSOVER

Most of us know that the original Passover remembers the last plague of Egypt, when the Father sent the Destroyer to kill the firstborn of the whole land, except for the households of the people of Israel. The Destroyer was to **pass over** all their

households, IF AND ONLY IF they sprinkled the blood of the sacrificed lamb on their doorposts.

Exodus 12:1–14

¹ YHWH said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,

² “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb

according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a

lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to

what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a

year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day

of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷ “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in

which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter

herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and

its inner parts. ¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the

morning you shall burn. ¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet,

and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is YHWH's Passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am YHWH. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴ "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to YHWH; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

Exodus 12:21–32

²¹ Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. ²³ For YHWH will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, YHWH will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. ²⁴ You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. ²⁵ And when you come to the land that YHWH will give you, as he

has promised, you shall keep this service. ²⁶ And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ ²⁷ you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of YHWH’s Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’ ” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. ²⁸ Then the people of Israel went and did so; as YHWH had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. ²⁹ At midnight YHWH struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. ³¹ Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve YHWH, as you have said. ³² Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!”

B) THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION

God told his people to celebrate Passover every year:

Exodus 12:14

This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to YHWH; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

Leviticus 23:4–5

These are the appointed feasts of YHWH, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is YHWH's Passover.

C) YESHUA'S "LAST SUPPER"

About 1480 years after the original Passover in Egypt, Yeshua and his disciples were celebrating it, like they did every year. But this was a special year... the year that the future fulfillment would take place. Through the blood of the Passover Lamb, we are saved from the punishment of death.

Matthew 26:18–28

¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' "

¹⁹ And the disciples did as Yeshua had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. ²⁰ When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹ And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" ²³ He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵

Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, **“You have said so.”**²⁶ Now as they were eating, Yeshua took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, **“Take, eat; this is my body.”**²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, **“Drink of it, all of you,”**²⁸ **for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**

At this Passover meal, Yeshua told his disciples that the bread represented his body, and the wine his blood. In less than 24 hours he would be killed as the perfect and sinless Passover Lamb.

D) YESHUA’S CRUCIFIXION

Recall that Passover starts at sunset, and continues until the following sunset. It seems that Yeshua had his Passover meal in the evening that began Passover. The next morning, on Passover day, he was nailed to cross, and became our Passover Lamb.

Matthew 27:27–31

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Yeshua into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him.²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the

Jews!”³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

Matthew 27:32–44

³² As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots.³⁶ Then they sat down and kept watch over him there.³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Yeshua, the King of the Jews.”³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.”⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of

God.’ ” ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Matthew 27:45–54

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Yeshua cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰ And Yeshua cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Yeshua, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

E) PASSEOVER IN YESHUA'S FUTURE KINGDOM

We will continue to celebrate what Yeshua did on Passover, even when after he returns and establishes his future kingdom. He hints of this at his “last supper”:

Matthew 26:29

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

And in Ezekiel, in his description of the new temple and the new kingdom that will be established when the Messiah returns, he makes it clear that we will still be celebrating Passover:

Ezekiel 45:21

In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall celebrate the Feast of the Passover, and for seven days unleavened bread shall be eaten.

4. FIRST PART OF “THE SEDER”

A) FIRST CUP - SANCTIFICATION

Traditionally there are 4 cups wine during the meal. This is taken from Exodus 6:6-7.

Exodus 6:6–7

Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am YHWH, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and

with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God.'

The 4 cups stand for each of these 4 statements:

- I will bring you out – **Cup of Sanctification**
- I will deliver you – **Cup of Deliverance**
- I will redeem you – **Cup of Redemption**
- I will take you for my people – **Cup of Praise**

The first cup is the cup of sanctification - to be set apart for God's purposes; not for Pharaoh's purposes; not for anyone's purpose other than our Fathers. YHWH set us apart from the rest of the world, to be different from all other people, for his holy purpose.

Fill cups, lift them up and say the blessing together:

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine, and set us apart to be yours and only yours, and for your purposes alone.

Let's drink the cup of sanctification.

It was this first cup that we probably read about in Luke, when Yeshua was celebrating Passover with his disciples:

Luke 22:14–18

And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before

I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

B) HAND WASHING

Traditionally, before we eat any of the food on the Passover plate, we wash our hands, to symbolize our purification on the inside, and in doing so, to expect the blessing He promises us:

Psalm 139:23–24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Psalm 24:3–5

Who shall ascend the hill of YHWH? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from YHWH and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart with your Word. We cleanse our hands and our hearts as we come before you in praise and celebration today.

Hold the bowl for the person next to you, and as you wash, renew your commitment to our Father to be set apart for him with a clean and pure heart.

It may have been at this part of the Passover celebration, at the Last Supper, that Yeshua gets up from the meal, and does something very strange:

John 13:4–7

Yeshua laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Yeshua answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."

Can you see Peter's reaction? Are you going to wash my feet? This is the time to wash our hands not our feet? And Yeshua taught them his true servant nature.

Often people incorporate not just hand washing, but also foot washing, into the Passover celebration.

C) PARSLEY & SALT WATER

Each food on the Passover Plate has special symbolic meaning.

Parsley –represents hyssop, green for new life
God's blessing of new life.

Exodus 12:21–22

Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. **Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood** that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin.

The parsley represents the hyssop branch used to apply the blood of the lamb to the doorpost. It’s green because it represents new life - new life in the promised land – the blessing of the Father.

But blessings are often born out of sorrow.

Exodus 2:23–25

the people of Israel **groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help**. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

They groaned in their slavery, and cried out to the Father. And he heard them and blessed them. Blessings born out of sorrow.

And there was also much sorrow in the land of Egypt that first Passover evening:

Exodus 12:29–30

At midnight YHWH struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was

in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. **And there was a great cry in Egypt**, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.

Imagine the pain, the screaming, the crying that night! Maybe you've been there. Can you think of a time in your life that was filled with pain and sorrow, but that your heavenly Father then turned into blessing? (Romans 8:28).

Salt water – represents tears of pain and grief
both for Israel (God's people)
and for Egypt (the rest of the world)

As the hyssop was dipped into the blood, we dip the parsley into the salt water. We will dip it **twice** – once for us, and once for the rest of the world that doesn't know Him - remembering that while our lives are sometimes immersed in tears, His blessing of new life is available to all.

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who creates the produce of the earth, and who reminds us that out of suffering and pain comes new life and new beginnings.

Now, think of some of the people in your life that aren't yet reconciled to their Heavenly Father through faith in Yeshua. Both you and your Heavenly Father grieve for

them to know Him. Take a moment to pray for them, and then dip the parsley in the salt water twice & eat it.

D) BREAKING THE MATSAH

Matsah - unleavened bread - bread made without yeast.

Exodus 12:39

And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

According to tradition, there are 3 pieces of Matsah in the Passover celebration. The middle piece is taken out, and broken in half. One half is wrapped in white linen, and hidden until the end of the celebration.

The honored man (oldest man) at the table has the honor of taking out and breaking the matsah.

So let's take out the middle piece of matsah, and break it in half, wrap one of the halves in linen, and hide it by placing it under your chair.

This is actually a Jewish tradition that they don't know how to explain. Why are there 3 pieces, always in a stack? And why is the middle one taken out and broken, and wrapped in linen and hidden to be brought back later? They have no explanation – at least that they're willing to accept.

The truth is, that most likely that this tradition was started by the early believers in Yeshua who were keeping the Passover and at the same time keeping Yeshua's command to remember his body with the breaking of the matsah – like we are doing tonight!

The 3 pieces of matsah symbolize YHWH and His Holy Spirit on the outside, Yeshua the Messiah in between. Yeshua is broken on Passover (crucified), his body wrapped in linen, buried (hidden away) only later to be brought back (resurrected).

It's amazing that this rich symbol of the Messiah has been preserved so rigidly in traditional Jewish Passover Celebration, while most Christians have let it slip away.

E) SECOND CUP - DELIVERANCE

I will deliver you – Cup of Deliverance

Not only did the Father take them out from under Pharaoh, but He also made them truly free. The attitudes and feeling that they were a slave people had to be totally eliminated. They were delivered and set free. Just as we are freed and given new lives in the Messiah.

Fill the cup of Deliverance. This is the cup where we remember the 10 plagues, and how the Father actually delivered us.

Can you put them order? There are 10 pictures of the 10 plagues on each table. Take 2 minutes, working together, and see if you can put the order.

1. Blood! 2. Frogs! 3. Gnats! 4. Flies!
5. Disease to Livestock! 6. Boils! 7. Hail!
8. Locusts! 9. Darkness! 10. Death of Firstborn!

Who got them all correct?

With each plague we know there was pain and suffering. So as we name each plague, we'll dip our little finger into the cup, allowing a drop from the cup to fall on our plate, slightly reducing the fullness of our cup of joy. So after I say "blood", then you shout "blood", and at the same time dip your little finger in your cup and shake off one drop onto your plate. Let's do it:

1. Blood! 2. Frogs! 3. Gnats! 4. Flies!
5. Disease to Livestock! 6. Boils! 7. Hail!
8. Locusts! 9. Darkness! 10. Death of Firstborn!

Lift up your cups and say the blessing together:

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine, and who delivered us and set us free from the bondage of sin.

F) EATING THE MATSAH

We've talked about the matsah – the unleavened bread reminding us of the bread that made in a hurry, without leaven since there was no time to let it rise.

Everyone break off a piece of matsah and hold it up. There's plenty – break off a good sized piece.

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who gives us bread from the earth, and

also gives us the Bread of Life through Your Word and through the Messiah.

Go ahead and eat a piece of the matsah. It's not really tasty... but that wasn't its purpose. It was supposed to keep them alive – to give them life! It's was the Father's provision.

G) BITTER HERBS - MAROR

Scripture says God's people were to eat unleavened bread with bitter herbs.

Exodus 12:8

They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; **with unleavened bread and bitter herbs** they shall eat it.

Bitter herbs recall the bitterness of slavery.

Exodus 1:14

[The Egyptians] **made their lives bitter with hard service**, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

Each person take another piece of matsah and dip it in the bitter herbs. Take plenty so you can really taste it. Hold it up and say the blessing for the bitter herbs:

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who set us apart with your Word, and commanded us to eat the bitter herbs to remind us of how bitter our lives used to be.

Eat it and think about the bitterness of life without the Father, and without a relationship with His son, Yeshua. That's the bitterness of slavery – whether a slave to Egypt or a slave to sin and the godless desires of our world today.

H) FRUIT MIXTURE - KHAROSSET

Next we have a mixture of fruit and nuts called Kharoset.

kharoset - represents the clay & mud used for bricks

The kharoset symbolizes the heavy burdens carried by the Israelites under Pharaoh. But it also tastes good. This reminds us that while our burdens may be too much to bear alone, when we give ourselves to our Heavenly Father, and become totally dependent upon His strength and His power, no burden will be too great. And nothing is better than to be in His hands.

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who takes away the bitterness of our burdens and blesses us with the sweetness of new life.

Dip the matsah first into the bitter herbs, and then smother it with the kharoset, and as we eat it, we remind ourselves that **even the most bitter of circumstances can be sweetened by the hope we have in the Messiah.**

If you like, you can eat the rest of your Kharoset. Just take another piece of matsah – remember this

symbolizes the Messiah - and cover it with the kharoset – the sweetness of the hope we have in Him, that covers up the bitter taste of life we have in our mouths.

When Yeshua and his disciples were celebrating the Passover together this was most likely the time when Yeshua said there is one among you who will betray me. And the disciples asked, Lord, who is it?

John 13:26–27

Yeshua answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Yeshua said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”

And after Judas took the matsah he left the celebration and didn’t finish the rest of the Passover meal.

1) PASSOVER LAMB

The last item on the plate is the lamb itself. Of course the lamb would have been the main part of their meal. The Passover lamb gave his life for the deliverance of the people. So the Lamb really became the focal point of the entire meal.

The Father told His people that when they celebrate Passover, that they were to sacrifice a lamb. BUT sacrifices were only to be done in the tabernacle, or later in the temple, once it was built. However, since

the temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD, we can no longer sacrifice the lamb in that way.

Therefore, Jewish people today usually put an unbroken leg bone of a lamb or a chicken on their plate as a reminder of the Passover lamb. But they don't eat it, as a reminder that they can no longer make the sacrifice since the temple is gone. That's their tradition. But for us tonight, we want to remember the Passover meal more like it was during the time of Yeshua. And he would have eaten lamb with his disciples. So we will too. We'll say a blessing for the lamb, then enjoy a small taste, to remind us of his sacrifice. Then during the rest of our meal of celebration, you'll have a chance to enjoy a larger portion if you wish.

Let's say a blessing for the Passover Lamb:

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who has provided the Passover Lamb, and in doing so, delivered us from death through His blood shed for us.

As we eat the lamb, let's remember that the Messiah is our Passover Lamb, and once for all time became the perfect and final sacrifice, delivering us from the death we deserve because of our sins.

5. ENJOY THE PASSOVER DINNER

The Passover meal itself was a special feast. usually a entire lamb was roasted and shared with family and friends.

At home you can make lamb chops, leg of lamb, or something else if you prefer.

Remember - no pork, shellfish, or leaven

Now, let's enjoy this Passover meal together. When you think of Yeshua and his disciples at their Last Supper together, think of them having a delicious meal together like the one we are going to have now.

The most honored man says the prayer.

--- Passover Meal ---

Deuteronomy 8:10 (NASB)

When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless YHWH your God for the good land which He has given you.

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe. You are the One who nourishes each of us, not only with physical food, but also with Your goodness, Your favor, Your loving-kindness, and Your compassion. We thank you, Father, for your blessings.

6. SECOND PART OF “THE SEDER”

A) THE HIDDEN MATSAH - AFIKOMEN

Now that the meal is over, it's time to bring back the hidden matsah.

Find the hidden piece of matsah and unwrap it. It is called the **afikomen**, from a Greek verb that means “I come”. That piece of matsah that was broken in half to symbolize His body, broken for us. His broken body was wrapped in white linen and buried, but is now resurrected.

When Yeshua celebrated the Passover with his disciples, this seems to be the place in the celebration when Yeshua broke the bread and said do this in remembrance of me!

Luke 22:19

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “**This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**”

Paul, in his letter to the new Corinthian believers in Greece says this:

1 Corinthians 11:23–24

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Yeshua on the night when 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.**”

Each person take a piece of that hidden matsah, and we will say a blessing before we eat it:

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth, and gave us your Son, the Bread of Life, to be broken for us.

Eat the matsah and remember that it is the symbol of the Messiah's body, sacrificed for us as the Passover lamb.

B) THIRD CUP - REDEMPTION

The third cup is the cup of redemption. At the Last Supper, it was probably this third cup that Yeshua took when he said do this in remembrance of me.

Luke 22:20

And likewise the cup **after they had eaten**, saying,
"This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

To redeem is to buy back or pay a price so that you can get something back that was once yours. God bought us back with the blood of Yeshua, the Passover Lamb. So this cup, the cup of redemption, symbolizes the blood of the Passover Lamb, the blood of the Messiah, poured out for us!

Let's pray the blessing for the wine and then drink this cup in celebration of the blood of the Messiah, given as the Passover sacrifice that redeems us.

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine, and who redeemed us with the blood of the Lamb.

Let's drink the cup of redemption.

Paul says to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C) FOURTH CUP – PRAISE

The fourth cup is the cup of praise. God said I will take you to be My people. Like a bridegroom takes a bride, we are His. That is a time of praise! Let's pray the blessing of the fourth cup.

Blessed are you, YHWH our God, King of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine, and took us to be Your people. We praise you, our Father!

Let's read responsively Psalm 136, one of the Psalms of Praise. The leader will say the first phrase of each verse, and everyone else will respond together with *"His love endures forever."*

1. Give thanks to YHWH, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

2. Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

3. Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

His love endures forever.

4. to him who alone does great wonders,
His love endures forever.
5. who by his understanding made the heavens,
His love endures forever.
6. who spread out the earth upon the waters,
His love endures forever.
7. who made the great lights -
His love endures forever.
8. the sun to govern the day,
His love endures forever.
9. the moon and stars to govern the night;
His love endures forever.
10. who struck down the firstborn of Egypt
His love endures forever.
11. and brought Israel out from among them
His love endures forever.
12. with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;
His love endures forever.
13. to him who divided the Red Sea asunder
His love endures forever.
14. and brought Israel through the midst of it,
His love endures forever.
15. Give thanks to the God of heaven.
His love endures forever.

7. CLOSING BLESSING

We finish the Passover celebration by focusing on the Messiah's return, when He comes to establish His

Kingdom on the earth, and we will be celebrating Passover together with Him in His future Kingdom.

Revelation 21:1–4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

So with great expectation of the Messiah’s return, we finish the Passover by shouting in unison:

Next year in Jerusalem!

I trust this evening was a blessing to each of you, as I think it was to the Father – for Him to see us, His People, remembering and celebrating what He has done for us, at His appointed time - the very time that he asked His people to meet with him and remember these events.