



Christian Passover Seder Guide

MATERIALS:

- Traditional Seder Plate
- Candles and lighter
- Wine glass(es) – either four glasses, or one per person
- Bowl or Pitcher of Water
- Towel
- Index Cards w/4 Questions
- Matzah Cloth – with 3 pockets
- 1 Child's Reward – small treat or prize
- Bible Seder plate coloring sheet and colors, if desired

FOOD NEEDED:

- Wine/grape juice
- Matzah bread (or crackers)
- Horseradish
- Lettuce (romaine or other)
- Parsley
- Salt water in a small dish
- Charoset
- Roasted egg
- Lamb shank
- Dinner food – additional things to eat after the ceremony

INTRODUCTION:

Everything we'll do during this seder meal has been done by Jewish people for thousands of years. As Christians, we can see how Jesus perfectly fulfilled each prophecy and component of tradition as the long awaited Messiah.

SEDER CEREMONY

1. Lighting of the Candles by the Eldest Woman of the House

DO: Eldest woman of the house waves her hands over the flames of the candles on your table 3x to welcome the holiday.

READ/SAY: Since Messiah was “born of a woman, born under the Torah,” it is fitting that a woman begins the Seder and brings light to the table. As we look upon the candles, may we remember that Messiah is the Light of the world. Blessed are you, LORD, who calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light! Amen.

2. Pouring Four Cups of Wine/Grape Juice

READ/SAY: Four Cups of Wine are traditionally drunk throughout the Jewish Passover Seder, each recalling a special promise made by God to his people. (Maybe this explains why the disciples were so sleepy later in the garden?!)

DO: Pour your wine/grape juice into four glasses. Lift each glass while reading the explanations below.

**Note: As an alternative, you could use one cup per person and simply pour more wine/juice into your glass four times.*

- **The First Cup**, the cup of Sanctification: God said, “I will bring you out of Egypt” and set you apart as holy. Therefore, we are reborn as his own special people (ie. passing through the cloud and the sea like baptism or rebirth). Jesus drank this cup according to the Jewish tradition with his disciples. Traditionally, all say while drinking, “Messiah our sanctification.” (1 Cor. 1:30)
- **The Second Cup**, the cup of Deliverance: “I will deliver you.” Jesus also drank this cup per tradition with his disciples.
- **The Third Cup**, the cup of Redemption: “I will redeem you with My power.” Jesus drank this cup and said, “This is my blood of the New Covenant.” (Matt.26:27-39)
- **The Fourth Cup**, the cup of Restoration: “I will acquire you as My people.” Jesus did not drink this cup but promised his disciples he will do so with them in the coming Kingdom. (Matt.26:29)
- A Fifth Cup of Wine is traditionally observed only on the Jewish table, “Elijah’s Cup.” (Read a Jewish explanation of this here: http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/117141/jewish/The-Silent-Cup.htm)

SEDER CEREMONY - CONTINUED

3. Ceremonial Hand Washing

READ/SAY: While traditionally Jewish participants wash their hands at this point, Jesus washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4-12). We follow Jesus' example, and the man of the house or leader of our ceremony will wash the feet of others.

DO: Wash the feet of everyone at your seder meal.

4. Breaking & Wrapping the Afikoman

READ/SAY: Three matzahs represent Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the middle represents Isaac, broken to recall how he was himself offered in sacrifice in obedience to the will of his father. The middle one is broken also to represent the heart of God, broken for the pain Messiah endured by taking our sins upon Him at the cross.

**Note: the word for "heart" in Hebrew means middle.*

DO: Take the middle piece of matzah bread out of the matzah cloth. Break the middle piece and hold it up. Wrap the larger broken piece, the "Afikoman," in linen or a cloth napkin (symbolizing a burial shroud).

READ/SAY: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

DO: Hide the Afikoman for the children to find later.

5. Telling the Passover Story & Four Questions

**Note: Have a child read each of the four questions below, written on index cards.*

◦ QUESTION 1: WHY ARE WE EATING UNLEAVENED BREAD, OR MATZAH, TONIGHT?

READ/SAY: Notice that the matzah is striped ("By his stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5) and pierced ("They shall look upon me whom they've pierced." Zechariah 12:10) and pure/without leaven, as Jesus' body was without any sin ("God made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Cor. 5:21). And we break the bread, representing how Jesus was broken on our behalf.

DO: Break the matzah and give each person a piece. Taste the matzah.

READ/SAY: "And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'" Luke 22:19

◦ QUESTION 2: WHY ARE WE EATING BITTER HERBS?

DO: Taste the horseradish on the lettuce leaves.

READ/SAY: This reminds us of the bitterness of God's people in slavery in Egypt and of our own slavery to sin. Our reaction to the bitter taste should resemble our reaction of disgust toward our own sin.

◦ QUESTION 3: WHY DO WE DIP OUR HERBS TWICE?

DO: Dip parsley in salt water twice, shake some drops off, eat.

READ/SAY: This reminds us of the sweat and tears of God's people as they endured slavery and as they painted the door with the blood of the Passover lamb so that the Angel of Death would pass over their homes, and of our own sadness over what it cost God to redeem us from the consequences of our sin. "Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin." Hebrews 9:22

DO: Taste the charoset.

READ/SAY: This reminds us of the sweetness of hope in our Rescuer, Jesus, the one who willingly sacrificed himself on the cross because of his deep love for us.

DO: Lift up the roasted egg and the lamb shank bone.

SEDER CEREMONY - CONTINUED

READ/SAY: This reminds us of the sacrificial burnt offerings repeatedly brought to the Temple and of the Passover lamb, and we remember that Jesus was our ultimate and final sacrifice, offering us complete forgiveness of sin and new life that lasts forever! "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

o QUESTION 4: WHY ARE WE EATING THIS MEAL RECLINING?

DO: Lean back in your chair and relax. Take another drink of your wine/juice.

READ/SAY: Remember that our freedom has been bought at a high cost through the blood of Jesus, and that we are now royalty, heirs of the King, princes and princesses who have been given the freedom to live eternally with our Rescuer, Redeemer and King, Jesus, and our Abba Father.

6. Eat Dinner (Yum!)

7. Children Find the Afikoman During Dinner

DO: Break it and have everyone eat a small piece. Reward the child who finds the Afikoman with a special reward!

READ/SAY: A child is rewarded for finding this to remind us of the special place in history and in the heart of God for women and children, who at this time in history were typically given little importance in society. Remember, Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the Risen Christ, and Jesus personally expressed his affection for children, saying the Kingdom belongs to "such as these." (Mark 16:9, Matthew 19:14)

8. Closing Benediction

DO: All hold hands out in an open, receiving position.

READ/SAY: "Now to the One who is able to keep you from falling, and to cause you to stand, rejoicing, without blemish before his glorious presence, to the only God our Savior through Yeshua the Messiah, our Lord and great Lamb of God, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all time, and now, and for all eternity. Amen."

For more information: *Observing the Passover Seder Meal for Christians by Hebrew for Christians; A Christian Passover Seder* by John Pontier

CHAROSET RECIPE:

Makes 3 cups

6 apples, peeled and chopped
1 cup chopped walnuts
½ t cinnamon
1 t sugar
3 ½ t honey
1/3 c red wine or grape juice

Mix all ingredients.

Serve immediately or refrigerate until serving.

RESURRECTION ROLLS:

Makes 8

1 Can Refrigerated crescent rolls
8 large marshmallows
¼ c melted butter
4T cinnamon/sugar mixture

Separate crescent rolls into individual triangles. Dip a marshmallow into butter, and then roll in cinnamon/sugar mixture. Place in center of triangle and wrap the dough around the marshmallow, pinching to seal tightly.

Bake at 400 degrees until golden brown, about 15 min.

Rolls will be empty on the inside as the marshmallow melts during baking, reminding us of the empty tomb.