



CELEBRATING

*Passover*

*Thank you for opening your home to host a Passover Meal this Easter.*

*Firstly we want you to know you don't have to get caught up in all the details of the traditional Passover Meal if you don't want to however we have provided steps for you if you would like too.*

*Make this Passover Meal as simple or as detailed as you would like.*

*The most important aspects above all else is sharing a meal with others and cultivating the value of family and relationships and to remember two things:*

*The very first Passover where God rescued His people out of Egypt and out of slavery and in a miraculous way.*

*Most importantly of all, that Jesus died on the cross for you and I and became the Passover Lamb - canceling the power of sin and death for all who choose to accept Him as their Lord and Saviour.*

*Everything you need to know, including outlines of what happened in those two events and scriptures are part of this Host Kit.*

**WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS TO SHOW  
ON EASTER SUNDAY!**

***Please remember to take photos of you and your guests sharing your Passover Meal and send them to:***

***media@ascendeglobal.org.nz***

***BEFORE 10am Saturday 30th March***



PASSOVER MEAL



# INSTRUCTIONS

# Provided

Register at the Ask Me Desk to receive the instructions and step by step notes for your Passover meal.

# YOU WILL

# need...

2 Candles | Grape Juice | Tortilla Bread | Unleavened Bread Recipe

## NEEDED FOR THE SEDER PLATE IF YOU DECIDE TO DO THIS PART

- Parsley | Salt | Horse Raddish (or other bitter herbs/lettuce)
- Apple (stewed/canned/sliced) | Cinnamon | Nut Meg
- Shank bone (or chicken bone or any piece of meat)
- Egg (hard boiled egg)

# SEDER

# Plate

**THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A SEDER PLATE**

**- YOU CAN SET YOURS OUT HOWEVER YOU WOULD LIKE.**





## UNLEAVENED BREAD

## Recipe

***This is OPTIONAL as we have provided tortilla bread***

### INGREDIENTS

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/3 cup vegetable oil

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup water

### DIRECTIONS

*Step 1:* Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

*Step 2:* Mix flour, oil, and salt together in a bowl; add water and mix using a pastry cutter until dough is soft. Form dough into 6 balls and press into disks onto the prepared baking sheet using your hands.

*Step 3:* Bake in the preheated oven until bread is cooked, 8 to 10 minutes.





STEP BY

Step

## PASSOVER: SEDER MEAL NOTES

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- Each item and activity has a symbolic meaning
- These notes will explain the symbol and suggest how its applied.

### 2. LIGHTING OF THE TWO CANDLES

#### **MEANING**

- **2 candles** - 1 represents creation and 1 represents redemption
- The woman does this as she gave birth to Jesus, light of the world

#### **ACTION**

- **Light Candles:** The female of house lights the candles giving light to the table
- **Read:** John 8:12  
*"Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*
- **Prayer:** Thank Jesus for bringing light into the darkness of our lives and saving us.

### 3. FIRST OF 4 CUPS OF WINE

#### **MEANING**

- **Traditionally, the four cups represent the four biblical promises of redemption:**  
*Therefore say to the children of Israel: "I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an out stretched arm and with great judgments, I will take you as My people, and I will be your God.*
- **1st Cup symbolises sanctification**
- The cup is a symbol of the Covenant or agreement God has made with us by the Blood Jesus shed.
- Sanctification means "To be set apart"
- Each believer is set apart by the Spirit of God for His own unique purpose as a Child of God.

#### **ACTION**

- **Read:** Luke 22:14-23

*"When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, :With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."*

*Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise He also took the cup after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. But behold, the hand of My betraye is with Me on the table. And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to the man by whom He is betrayed. Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing."*

- **Pass the Cup** around for each person to drink a small portion.
- **Prayer:** Thank Jesus for His faithfulness and present self available to live for and serve Him.

#### **4. THE WASHING OF HANDS**

##### **MEANING**

- The bowl or bowls containing water mixed with lemon
- The water is symbolic of washing or cleansing
- The lemon is sour and is symbolic of sufferings we experience in life
- Hands are symbolic of our works. What we do is influenced by unresolved pain and defilement
- Washing hands is symbolic of clean hands and a purified heart

##### **ACTION**

- **Pass** the bowl(s) around and everyone rinses their hands

- **Read:** Psalm 24:3-5

*"Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation."*

- **Prayer:** Ask Jesus to cleanse our hearts of hurt, and anger and resentment.

#### **THE DIPS**

#### **5. PARSLEY AND SALT WATER**

##### **MEANING**

- Salt water represents the tears of pain and the sweat of hard labour and suffering Israel endured in bondage in Egypt.
- Parsley is green and symbolises new life and new hope.

##### **ACTION**

- **Read:** Exodus 6:3-10

*"I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name Lord[a] I was not known to them. I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their [c]pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord.'" So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage. "*

- **Everyone Dips** the parsley in the salt water and eats
- **Prayer:** Ask Jesus to help us be sensitive to the sufferings of people around us and to send us to help them. (is there anyone present at the table who needs prayer?)

## **6. MAROR - BITTER HERBS (horse radish)**

### **MEANING**

- Bitter herbs symbolises the bitterness and harshness of slavery in Egypt
- It reminds us life can be bitter and harsh without Jesus to save and comfort us.

### **ACTION**

- **Everyone** takes a piece of bread and puts a bit of bitter herbs on it.

- **Read:** Exodus 1:13-14

*"So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage - in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor."*

OR

Hebrews 12-14 - 15

*"Pursue peace with all people and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many before defiled."*

- **Prayer:** Is there anyone that comes to mind that we need to forgive? Ask Jesus for His grace and power to keep our hearts free from bitterness.

## **7. SWEET HAROSET - Apple, cinnamon and nut meg**

### **MEANING**

- Haroset comes from the Hebrew word for "clay"
- The sticky mixture of fruit and nuts in Haroset symbolises the mortar of the bricks that the Israelites used for building to bind the bricks together.
- God is a master builder. He is building us together to become a dwelling place for God.

### **ACTION**

- **Everyone** take a bit of bread and bit of sweet haroset and eat

- **Read:** Ephesians. 2:19-22

*"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."*

- **Prayer:** Thank you Jesus for each person present, for the gifts and contribution of each person and for Jesus binding our lives and destinies together.

## **8. SHANK BONE**

### **- The leader (head of the home) holds this up**

### **MEANING**

- The Shank bone represents the Passover lamb, the sacrifice offered the night Israel was delivered from slavery to Egypt.
- The lamb shank bone is a symbol of Jesus, the true spotless Passover Lamb who would be sacrificed to free all people from slavery to sin.

### **ACTION**

- **The Leader or Head** of the home, holds up the bone

• **Read:** John 1:36

*"And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"*

Isaiah 53:7

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns"."*

1 Peter 1:18-19

*"...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. "*

• **Prayer:** Opportunity for people to thank Jesus for saving them

## **9. BREAKING OF THE UNLEAVENED BREAD**

### **MEANING**

- In their haste to leave Egypt, the Israelites could not let their bread rise, so they brought unleavened bread
- Bread is a staple part of the Israel diet and a symbol of life
- The bread is unleavened, meaning it has no yeast which would cause it to rise or puff up
- Leaven is symbolic of sin which causes us to puff up in pride and overestimate ourselves
- Israel were commended to remove all leaven from their house on this night and for the seven that followed
- This signifies our desire to be cleansed from all sin and live free for The Lord
- Unleavened bread then symbolised entering freedom for their bondage

### **ACTION**

• **Read:** Exodus 12:17-20

*"So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. In the first month of the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.*

*For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread."*

1 Corinthians. 5:7-8

*"Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Pass-over, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."*

• **Hold up** the unleavened bread and break it into two pieces

- One piece is called the Bread of affliction
  - This piece represents Jesus the true bread of Life that was afflicted for our signs
- The other piece, the Akifomen, is wrapped in linen, like wrapping for burial
  - The piece represents Jesus death on our behalf and His burial out of sight for three days and three nights in the grave
  - This piece is wrapped and hidden until later
- **Read:** Mat 26:26  
*"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."*
- **Prayer:** Thank Jesus for His sacrifice on the cross and making us become one body of people in Him.

## **10. SECOND CUP OF BLESSING**

### **MEANING**

- This is the Cup of Thanksgiving for the goodness of God in saving Israel

### **ACTION**

- **Read:** 1 Thessalonians. 5:18  
*"...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*
- **Share** the cup around the table
- **Prayer:** Give people an opportunity to thank Jesus for what He has done for them personally

## **11. THIRD CUP OF BLESSING**

### **MEANING**

- This is called the Cup of Redemption
- The wine/grape juice is symbolic of the blood shed by Jesus to redeem us
- This is a reminder that Jesus gave His life to redeem us from sin and bring us into covenant blessing
- Jesus has redeemed us from sin, from the power of sin, from all curses and from the power of Satan
- This Cup is also a reminder that Jesus will come again, will raise the dead to life and will judge the whole earth

### **ACTION**

- **Read:** Matthew 26:27-29  
*"...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*
- **Share** the cup around the table
- **Prayer:** Give people an opportunity to thank Jesus for His covenant blessings

## **12. AKIFOMEN: The Unwrapped Bread**

### **MEANING**

- Bread is a basic source of life. Jesus declared He is the Bread of Life.
- The bread wrapped in linen is symbolic of Jesus death and being wrapped in linen for His burial out of sight in the tomb.
- Unwrapping the bread is symbolic of Jesus resurrection from the dead.

### **ACTION**

- **Read:** John 20:3-9



*“Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.”*

- **Share and Eat** the bread together
- **Prayer:** Thank God for the resurrection power of Christ released to empower us to overcome

### **13. FOURTH CUP OF BLESSING**

#### **MEANING**

- This is called the Cup of Completion and is the last cup of the night
- It represents that Jesus work on the cross is complete. There is nothing that we can add to it.
- He has paid fully the price of our redemption and He will complete what He has begun in us.
- He requires us to walk by faith in what He has done and be led by His Spirit into the fullness of His plan for us.

#### **ACTION**

- **Read:** John 19:30  
*“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”*

Philippians 1:3-6

*“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

- **Share** the cup around the table
- **Prayer:** This would be a good opportunity to pray blessing over the people gathered for the meal.

- An alternative would be to pray the **Aaronic Blessing:**

Numbers 6:24:26

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord [a]lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace.”*

**THIS COMPLETES THE SEDER**

## **14. MEAL TOGETHER**

***The afikomen should be the last thing that is eaten*** - this is His body broken for us - mediate on this without Jesus we have no hope. Remember pure hearts - hope flows in the middle of suffering.

- Hold up the unleavened bread and break it into two pieces
- One piece is called the Bread of affliction
  - This piece represents Jesus the true bread of Life that was afflicted for our sins
- The other piece, the Akifomen, is wrapped in linen, like wrapping for burial
- This piece represents Jesus death on our behalf and His burial out of sight for three days and three nights in the grave
- This piece is wrapped and hidden until later



## 1ST PASSOVER

# Story

**THIS PASSOVER STORY IS AN OPTIONAL PART  
- YOU CAN READ THESE IF YOU WOULD LIKE.**

*This is brief outline of the first Passover.*

Pharaoh was fearful that there was be too many Jews living in Egypt so he instituted slavery and demanded that male Jewish babies be killed.

Baby Moses was saved by his mother, who floats him in a basket down the Nile river, where he was found and adopted by the Pharaoh's daughter.

After killing an Egyptian slave master, Moses fled into the desert, and encountered a burning bush of God revealing himself to Moses. God tells Moses to go to Pharaoh and lead the Jews out of slavery.

Moses goes to the Pharaoh and asks that he let the Jews go free from Egypt. Each time the Pharaoh says "no," God sends a plague down on Egypt. The plagues did not affect God's people who were slaves, just the Egyptian people, who were cruel slave drivers. God kept His people safe from harm.

1. The first plague was the water turned to blood.
2. The second plague was frogs – thousands of them in the houses, the streets, everywhere.
3. The third plague was lice and gnats. The sand turned into lice and covered people and animals.
4. The fourth plague was swarms of flies.
5. The fifth plague was on all the cattle and animals of the Egyptians, they got diseased and died. No pestilence touched the Israelites.
6. The sixth plague was boils that broke out into sores on people and beasts.
7. The seventh plague was thunderstorms of hail and fire.
8. The eighth plague was locusts that covered the face of the earth and ate all the crops.
9. The ninth plague was thick darkness that covered Egypt for three whole days.
10. The tenth and final plague is the most drastic: the killing of the first born Egyptian and their flocks by the destroyer or the angel of death.

In order to protect their first-born children, the Israelites marked their doors with lamb's blood so the angel of death would pass over them. Thus the name Passover, which is "pesach" in Hebrew.

Finally the Pharaoh let God's people go. They had to leave quickly and gather what they could. The bread they were preparing didn't even have time to rise.

The Israelites were ultimately freed from slavery and passed through the Red Sea to escaped from the Egyptians.

They wandered the desert for 40 years before making it to the promise land.

### **Exodus 12:21-42**

21-23 *Moses assembled all the elders of Israel. He said, "Select a lamb for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the bowl of blood and smear it on the lintel and on the two doorposts. No one is to leave the house until morning. God will pass through to strike Egypt down. When he sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, God will pass over the doorway; he won't let the destroyer enter your house to strike you down with ruin.*

24-27 *"Keep this word. It's the law for you and your children, forever. When you enter the land which God will give you as he promised, keep doing this. And when your children say to you, 'Why are we doing this?' Tell them: 'It's the Passover-sacrifice to God who passed over the homes of the Israelites in Egypt when he hit Egypt with death but rescued us.'"*

*The people bowed and worshiped.*

28 *The Israelites then went and did what God had commanded Moses and Aaron. They did it all.*

\* \* \*

29 *At midnight God struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, right down to the firstborn of the prisoner locked up in jail.*

*Also the firstborn of the animals.*

30 *Pharaoh got up that night, he and all his servants and everyone else in Egypt—what wild wailing and lament in Egypt! There wasn't a house in which someone wasn't dead.*

31-32 *Pharaoh called in Moses and Aaron that very night and said, "Get out of here and be done with you—you and your Israelites! Go worship God on your own terms. And yes, take your sheep and cattle as you've insisted, but go. And bless me."*

33 *The Egyptians couldn't wait to get rid of them; they pushed them to hurry up, saying, "We're all as good as dead."*

34-36 *The people grabbed their bread dough before it had risen, bundled their bread bowls in their cloaks and threw them over their shoulders. The Israelites had already done what Moses had told them; they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold things and clothing. God saw to it that the Egyptians liked the people and so readily gave them what they asked for. Oh yes! They picked those Egyptians clean.*

37-39 *The Israelites moved on from Rameses to Succoth, about 600,000 on foot, besides their dependents. Hebrews and non-Hebrews alike set out, not to mention the large flocks and herds of livestock. They baked upraised cakes with the bread dough they had brought out of Egypt; it hadn't risen—they'd been rushed out of Egypt and hadn't time to fix food for the journey.*

*The Passover*

40-42 *The Israelites had lived in Egypt 430 years. At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, God's entire army left Egypt. God kept watch all night, watching over the Israelites as he brought them out of Egypt. Because God kept watch, all Israel for all generations will honor God by keeping watch this night—a watch night.*



## 2ND PASSOVER

# Story

**THIS PASSOVER STORY IS AN OPTIONAL PART  
- YOU CAN READ THESE IF YOU WOULD LIKE.**

### ***The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus***

#### **Matthew 27**

28 They stripped off his clothing<sup>[l]</sup> and placed a scarlet robe on him to make fun of him. 29 Then they braided a crown of thorns and forcefully shoved it onto his head. After placing a reed staff in his right hand, they knelt down before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" 30 Then they spat in his face and took the reed staff from his hand and hit him repeatedly on his head, driving the crown of thorns deeper.

31 When they finished ridiculing him, they took off the scarlet robe and put his own clothes back on him and led him away to be crucified. 32 And as they came out of the city, they stopped an African man named Simon, from Libya,<sup>[m]</sup> and compelled him to carry the cross for Jesus.

#### **The Crucifixion**

33 They brought Jesus to Golgotha, which means "Skull Hill."<sup>[n]</sup> 34 And there the soldiers offered him a mild painkiller, a drink of wine mixed with gall,<sup>[o]</sup> but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. 35 Then they crucified Jesus, nailing his hands and feet to the cross. The soldiers divided his clothing among themselves by rolling dice to see who would win them. 36 And the soldiers stood there to watch what would happen and to keep guard over him. 37 Above his head they placed a sign that read, "This is Jesus of Nazareth,<sup>[p]</sup> King of Israel."

38 Two criminals were also crucified with Jesus, one on each side of him.<sup>[q]</sup> 39 And those who passed by shook their heads and ridiculed him, 40 saying, "We heard you boast that you could destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Why don't you save yourself now? If you're really God's Son, come down from the cross!"

41 Even the ruling priests, with the Jewish scholars and religious leaders, joined in the mockery<sup>[r]</sup> 42 and kept on saying, "He saved others, but he can't even save himself! Israel's king, is he? He should pull out the nails and come down from the cross right now; then we'll believe in him! 43 He puts his trust in God, so let's see if it's true, and see if God really wants to rescue him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

44 Even the two criminals who were crucified with Jesus began to taunt him, hurling their insults on him.

#### **The Death of the Saviour**

45 For three hours, beginning at noon, a sudden and unexpected darkness came over the earth.<sup>[s]</sup> 46 And at three o'clock Jesus shouted with a mighty voice in Aramaic, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"<sup>[t]</sup>—that is, "My God, My God, why have you deserted me?"<sup>[u]</sup>

47 Some who were standing near the cross misunderstood and said, "He's calling for Elijah." 48 One bystander ran and got a sponge, soaked it with sour wine, then put it on a stick and held it up for Jesus to drink. 49 But the rest said, "Leave him alone! Let's see if Elijah comes to rescue him." [v]  
50 Jesus passionately cried out, [w] took his last breath, and gave up his spirit.

51 At that moment the veil in the Holy of Holies was torn in two from the top to the bottom. [x] The earth shook violently, rocks were violently split apart, 52 and graves were opened. Then many of the holy ones who had died were brought back to life and came out of their graves. 53 And after Jesus' resurrection, [y] they were seen by many people walking in Jerusalem. [z]

54 Now, when the Roman military officer and his soldiers witnessed what was happening and felt the powerful earthquake, they were extremely terrified. They said, "There is no doubt, this man was the Son of God!"

55 Watching from a distance were many of the women who had followed him from Galilee and given him support. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene; Mary, the mother of Jacob and Joseph; and the mother of Jacob and John.

### **The Burial of Jesus**

57 At the end of the day, a wealthy man named Joseph, a follower of Jesus from the village of Ramah, [aa] 58 approached Pilate and asked if he could take custody of the body of Jesus. So Pilate consented and ordered that the body be given to him. 59 Then Joseph wrapped the body in a shroud of fine linen and placed it in his own unused tomb, which had only recently been cut into the rock. 60 They rolled a large stone to seal the entrance of the tomb and left.