

MESSIANIC PASSOVER SEDER MEAL

FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

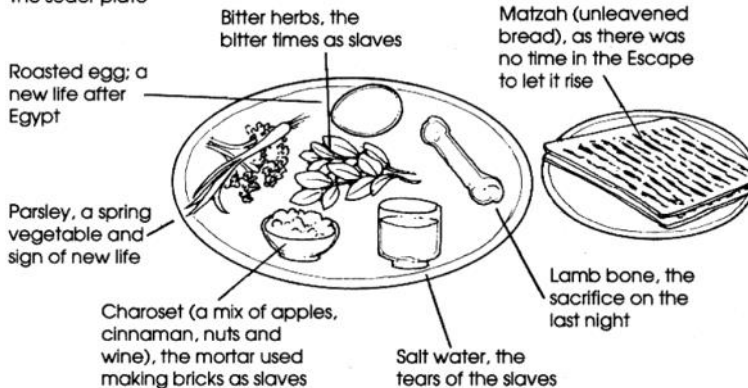
BY JENNIFER DUKES LEE

*We participate in this meal on what is known in Christian tradition as
"Maundy Thursday," or the day before Good Friday.*

PREP WORK:

- **DECORATE** your table with a white cloth, candles, Palm Sunday's leftover palm branches and baskets of flatbread or Matzo crackers (available at most large grocery stores). For each place setting, set out a goblet, a piece of tinfoil as a plate. No utensils are needed. Around the table, have a few small bowls of salt water.
- **ON EACH TINFOIL "PLATE,"** include the following: one boiled egg with the shell on; a few nuts; fruit, such as strawberries, apple slices, orange slices and grapes; and a bit of horseradish in a small cup.

The seder plate



- **SET AN EXTRA PLACE** to represent Jesus' place at the table.
- Nearby, have a bowl of warm water for **FOOT WASHING**, along with a towel.
- Have **GRAPE JUICE AND LAMB** ready. (Keep lamb on low in oven. Recipe for lamb on last page).
- Before the meal, **HIDE THE AFIKOMEN**. The afikomen is a piece of your matzo, broken off and concealed in a white cloth. Have candy as the prize for the child who finds the cloth-wrapped afikomen. The afikomen hunt will take place after the meal concludes.
- **PLAY MUSIC IN BACKGROUND**, including traditional Passover Seder songs and contemporary Christian songs or hymns such as "In Christ Alone," "Above All," and "How Deep the Father's Love."
- **HAVE YOUR BIBLE READY**. Allow questions, and keep the atmosphere light. This is a celebration.

SCRIPT/PLAN:

PARENT: Tonight, we take part in the Passover Seder.

It is a tradition celebrated by Jewish people as part of the Jewish Passover. The Passover celebrates the time when God, through Moses, led His people out of slavery. The Egyptian pharaoh let the people go after the angel of death killed every firstborn in Egypt but "passed over" the Israelite homes with lamb's blood on their doorposts.

(Optional: Depending on what you feel is age-appropriate for your child regarding the explanation of Passover, you may choose to have a coloring page of a man preparing his doorpost. Have the child color or paint the doorpost red. Explain that this was a message to the angel of death to "pass over" those houses and spare the children. *see back page)

Ask children how they may have felt that night if they were the parent painting the doorpost, or a child inside the house.

PARENT: Tonight, we celebrate a Jewish ritual. But we are not Jewish. We are Christians. So why do you think we should celebrate Passover?

(Give children a chance to respond, and be open to their thoughts and questions.)

PARENT: One reason we celebrate is to remember how God helped His people by leading them out of slavery. We remember that God keeps His promises. Can you think of a time when God has kept a promise in your life? *(Allow children to respond.)*

PARENT: We also celebrate Passover because Jesus did! Remember, when Jesus joined His friends for one last dinner before He died on the cross? That "Last Supper" was during a Passover celebration. During dinner, Jesus first introduced Holy Communion to the disciples. He took bread, broke it and said "This is my body." He took a cup of wine, lifted it and said, "This is my blood."

PARENT: What do you think the disciples thought when He said His body was the bread and His blood was the wine? *(Allow the children to share responses.)*

PARENT: The disciples might have been confused. No one ever said anything like that before. With Jesus, this meal was given new meaning. Bread and wine had

new meaning, too. Even His very best friends, the disciples, were surprised and amazed!

PARENT: And so, we eat this meal to remember Jesus Christ. We will eat the same kinds of foods that Jesus ate. We will say some of the same words He said. And we can be amazed, too!

PARENT: (*Drawing attention to the goblets*) During the meal, you will be served a drink four times, which is an ancient tradition of the Passover Seder. The four cups are: The cup of sanctification, which reminds us of God's promises; the cup of deliverance, because God brought (or delivered) His people out of slavery; the cup of redemption, because Jesus died for us; and the cup of praise, because we thank God for what He has done.

PARENT: (*Drawing attention to empty seat*) And we remember throughout our dinner tonight, that Jesus is always at our table, just like He was at the table with the disciples.

CHILD READER (or parent): **Read from Mark 14:12-16.**

Discuss briefly. Note how the Bible says that Jesus was celebrating the Passover feast on the night before He died on the cross.

CHILD READER (or parent): **Read Luke 22:14-15. Discuss briefly.** Ask the children what they think Jesus meant when He talked about suffering. Ask them how they think the disciples might have felt. How might Jesus have felt?

PARENT: We begin tonight with our **FIRST CUP — THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION AND FREEDOM.**

*Pour small amount of grape juice in each goblet.
Wait to drink.*

PARENT: Barach atah adonai,
elohay numelech hadlam,
boray pree hagafen.

(And/or the English translation)
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,
who makes the fruit of the vine.

Everyone drinks first cup.

PARENT: In the traditional Seder, the first cup was followed by the ceremonial washing of hands. During the Last Supper, this might have been when Jesus washed His friends' feet. (**Read John 13:3-5, 14-15.**)

At this time, you may choose to wash the feet of your children. And they may also wash yours.

Wash hands.

PARENT: At this point in the Passover meal, the first "dipping" took place. This is represented tonight by the parsley and salt water. You will dip the parsley in the bowl of salt water. The parsley reminds us of the Hyssop which applied the Lamb's blood to the doorframes of the homes. The salt water reminds us of the tears shed while in slavery and of the waters of the Red Sea. God parted the waters so the people could pass through to safety and freedom.

All dip twice and eat. Encourage children to taste the salt and remember the tears.

Pour second cups. Do not drink yet.

PARENT: After the dipping, the host of a Passover Seder pours the second cup but the participants did not

drink yet. The next step was the asking of questions, usually by the youngest.

CHILD: Why is this night different from all other nights?

PARENT: Because we were once slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

CHILD: On this night, why do we eat only unleavened bread?

PARENT: Biblical tradition says that the people had to leave Egypt so quickly that they did not have time to let the bread rise. So they made dough without yeast.

CHILD: On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs, but this night only bitter herbs. Why do we dip them?

PARENT: Because this reminds us of the bitterness of slavery. On this night we dip into salt water to remind us of the tears.

Explain each element of the Passover meal. Explain how some of the food might taste different from what they normally eat. Encourage your children to be willing to try new things, and to remember that each part of the meal has special meaning.

- The unleavened bread, or Matzo, reminds us that the Jewish people did not have time to let their dough rise when they made their bread, so they did not use yeast. They had to escape quickly.
- The horseradish represents bitter herbs – or moror – to remind us of the bitterness of slavery.
- The egg represents offerings that were brought to God in the Temple of Jerusalem in ancient times. You may also tell them that the empty shell of the egg can remind us of the empty tomb.
- The lamb symbolizes the Passover sacrifice.
- The fruit and nuts – served tonight separately – were often combined into a coarse, sweet mixture called charoset. This represents the mortar the slaves used in their work. (You may choose to make charoset. Many recipes available online.)

PARENT: You may now drink from the **SECOND CUP – THE CUP OF DELIVERANCE.**

PARENT: Barach atah adonai,
elohay numelech hadlam,
boray pree hagafen.

(And/or) ... Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who makes the fruit of the vine.

Everyone drinks second cup.

Parent or child or whole family may say grace before the meal is eaten.

Serve lamb at this time. (We do not use utensils.)

EAT MEAL.

After the meal, you may say this blessing: Blessed are You our God, King of the Universe, who feeds the whole world, with Your goodness and with grace, kindness and mercy, for Your mercy endures forever.

*At this time, **THE THIRD CUP, THE CUP OF REDEMPTION** is served. Depending on your religious traditions and beliefs regarding communion, you may serve communion around the table at this time. Otherwise, you may simply note that this is when Jesus would have served communion, and you may drink your third cups of juice individually.*

PARENT: (Modify, if your children do not yet take communion): We will now be serving the third cup – the cup of redemption – as part of our communion service around this table. Jesus would have done this on the night of the Last Supper, when He celebrated Passover with the disciples in the Upper Room. In Jewish tradition, the cup of redemption recalled God's promise to Moses: I will redeem you with an outstretched arm. Imagine the surprise of the disciples when Jesus suddenly gave this cup of redemption a whole new meaning.

During the third cup, Jesus took the cup and gave thanks, saying: Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom.

Everyone drinks third cup.

He also took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Pray the Lord's Prayer.

We serve communion, one to another, around the room. You may offer both the bread and grape juice or wine to the person beside you, saying: "(Person's name), this is the body of Christ, given for you. This is the blood of Christ, shed for you."

After communing, you may now pray a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus for what He has done for us.

PARENT: We have reached **THE FOURTH AND FINAL CUP, THE CUP OF PRAISE.**

Pour final cups.

PARENT: Barach atah adonai,
elohay numelech hadlam,
boray pree hagafen.

(And/or) ... Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who makes the fruit of the vine.

Drink.

HUNT FOR THE HIDDEN AFIKOMEN. When they find this bread, broken and wrapped in a white cloth, ask them what that reminds them of in the Easter story. (Christ's body wrapped in a cloth and hidden in a tomb).

PARENT: The Passover Seder traditionally comes to an end with a closing hymn. We will do the same tonight, by singing the Doxology.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts

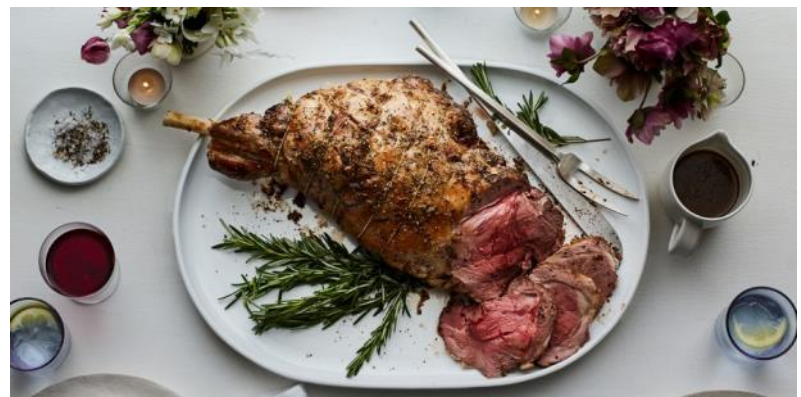
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Roasted Leg of Lamb

INGREDIENTS

- ¼ cup honey
 - 2 tablespoons prepared Dijon-style mustard
 - 2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
 - 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 - 1 teaspoon lemon zest
 - 3 cloves garlic, minced
 - 5 pounds whole leg of lamb
 - 1 teaspoon coarse sea salt
1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C).
 2. In a small bowl, combine the honey, mustard, rosemary, ground black pepper, lemon zest and garlic. Mix well and apply to the lamb. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator overnight.
 3. Bake at 450 degrees F (230 degrees C) for 20 minutes, then reduce heat to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C) and roast for 55 to 60 more minutes for medium rare. The internal temperature should be at least 145 degrees F (63 degrees C) when taken with a meat thermometer. Let the roast rest for about 10 minutes before carving.
 4. Place lamb on a rack in a roasting pan and sprinkle with salt to taste.



PER SERVING: 553 calories; protein 40.7g; carbohydrates 8.1g; fat 38.7g; cholesterol 156.5mg; sodium 378.7mg



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