

Vista Family Challenge – Lent

Instructions for a family Messianic Passover Seder Feast

“Because Jesus was an observant Jew, Passover was a central part of his life. The Gospel of Luke makes it very clear that Jesus celebrated Passover as a child. As in his early days, Passover played an important role in the life of Jesus in his last days. Luke 22:7-13 tells of his instructions to Peter and John in preparing for the Passover. Jesus said to his disciples, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:15). This Passover refers to the Seder. Observing the Passover Seder is a way of continuing to honor this fervent wish of Jesus.”

Let Us Break Bread Together by Smith and Shapiro

Vista Parent Equipping has put together this family Passover Seder packet as the Family challenge activity for Lent. We hope that you find this challenge activity beneficial for intentional focus during this season. This brief and family friendly activity is used illustrate how Passover points to Jesus as our final sacrificial lamb. This is not an official Messianic Haggadah nor is it meant to be so. It is a visual bible study tool for families that contains elements of Jewish and early church traditions. We pray that it will help you experience Christ’s resurrection in a whole new way. This challenge will take time and planning but can be prepared and celebrated by all members of your family. When you have completed the challenge, post your pics or experiences on the Vista Facebook page or email us with your experiences. We would love some families to share their thoughts on this challenge at the next Family Sunday April 29th.

What you will need:

Hard boiled eggs	grape juice	red jello	parsley
Bone of lamb (any bone is fine)	Matzoth wafers	basket	bugs
Four glasses & 4 candles	brick & some dirt	saltwater	rice
Animal crackers	small frogs	cotton balls	cross
Lamb toy or picture	applesauce	horseradish	band-aids
Romaine lettuce	marshmallows	change or play money	

Enough small cups for everyone to have 4 in front of them

Vocabulary:

Karpas: Parsley symbolizing rebirth for Israel and for us with Jesus

Charoset: applesauce or relish symbolizing mortar

Maror: Bitter herbs representing sorrow of Israelite people and our sin. We use horseradish

Afikomen: matzah crackers to hide symbolizing redemption and Jesus

Zroah: Passover Lamb represented by a bone

Beitzah: egg symbolizing sacrifice of lamb

Barech: Prayer sung to end the feast

Hallel: Blessing spoken during feast

Passover Seder Feast Script

Adult: Introduction

The holiday of Passover is celebrated each year in the spring. The instructions for observing this holiday are found in the *Haggadah*, a Hebrew word meaning, “the telling.” This book tells the story of the first Passover when the nation of Israel was freed from slavery in Egypt long ago. The celebration is called a *Seder*. It follows a special order of events, beginning with the lighting of the candles.

Child: *(adult light 1 candle while child says this prayer)*

“Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has set us apart by His word, and in whose Name we light the festival lights and remember the true Light of the World.”

Adult: The Cup of Sanctification

Let us lift our cups together as I say the Hebrew blessing that is said before all holiday meals. “Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.” “Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who gives us life and allows us to enjoy this festive holiday. *(everyone drink small cup of juice #1)*

Adult or child: Karpas

We now dip our karpas (parsley) in saltwater. Karpas (parsley) represents rebirth. It symbolizes the rebirth of the Jewish nation. Saltwater represents tears from crying. It reminds us of the tears shed by the people of Israel when they were slaves in Egypt. By dipping the Karpas in the saltwater, we are showing how the nation was formed through many years of sorrow. Hold your karpas as I say the blessing. “Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the earth. *(pass around*

bowl of saltwater and parsley pieces and have everyone try to eat some parsley dipped in saltwater)

Adult: The Explanation

The first Passover was celebrated by slaves - but now we are free! The first Passover meal was eaten in a hurry, with cloaks tucked in their belts, sandals on their feet, walking stick in hand, waiting to leave Egypt. Today we can relax and enjoy the Passover Seder.

On other nights we eat bread with leaven, but on Passover we eat only unleavened bread. It is bread made without yeast. It does not take very long to make or cook. It is food to be made and eaten in a hurry – getting ready for a long journey.

Leaven is sometimes used to represent sin in the Bible. Sin makes our life harder like leaven makes bread rise higher. Matzah in the Passover Seder is bread without leaven. It reminds us of Christ who had no sin.

Adult: Breaking the Matzah

(Have child take the middle of one matzah cracker from the set of 3 in a basket, break in half, and wrap one half in a napkin) Matzah is the Hebrew word for unleavened bread. The 3 pieces represent the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This one special piece is called the *afikomen*, a word that means 'I came.' This is a reference to Jesus the Messiah, who came according to prophecy. He was striped (beaten) and pierced for our sins, as was prophesied by Isaiah. Now the wrapping and removing of the afikomen represents his death.

(Have an adult hide the afikomen then a child will break the remaining matzah into large pieces into a dish and say the

following). This is the bread our religious ancestors ate in the land of Egypt on the night the angel of death passed them over. Let anyone who is hungry come in and eat; let anyone who is needy come in and celebrate the Passover.

Adult or child: The Story of Passover

In early times, a man named Abraham began a family that traveled to the land of Egypt. While they were there, they grew into a great nation called Israel.

But all the people became slaves of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. The Israelites worked long hours in the fields and built the great cities of the Pharaohs. *(have family pass around the brick)*

The people of Israel cried to God for their rescue. *(pass the basket representing Moses)* God heard their prayers and so he called Moses to lead and help them. God said to Moses from a burning bush: "I will send you to Pharaoh, and you shall say, the Lord God of Israel has commanded: 'Let my people go.'" Exodus 3:10 *(Light candle #2)*

Moses went to Pharaoh and asked for the freedom of the Israelites. But Pharaoh refused to listen, saying: "Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice? I do not know the Lord. And I will not let Israel go." Exodus 5:2

Adult: Act out the Story of 10 Plagues

Because Pharaoh refused to listen, horrible plagues were sent upon Egypt.

All the waters of Egypt, the rivers, streams, and ponds were turned into blood. *(pass out red jello and eat it)*

And Aaron, the brother of Moses, stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt and frogs came up and covered the land. *(everyone pass around or throw around toy Frogs)*

Then Aaron stretched out his hand and the dust of the earth turned into lice throughout all the land of Egypt. Lice were upon man and upon beast. *(everyone thrown or spread some rice over the table and selves – get as messy as you want or can handle)*

And there came a great swarm of flies upon the house of Pharaoh and in all the land of Egypt. *(everyone throw or pass around toy bugs)*

And Pharaoh still would not listen. Then there came a great plague upon all the cattle and other animals in Egypt. *(pass out animal crackers for every one)*

And because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart, boils broke out on the skin of all the people of Egypt. *(put Band-Aids on everyone)*

Moses stretched out his rod and the Lord sent lightning and hail upon the land of Egypt, destroying their crops and trees. *(throw cotton balls at each other and on the table)*

And an east wind brought locusts or grasshoppers eating everything that the hail had left. And not one green thing could be seen in the land of Egypt. *(everyone puts handful of dirt one the table – not food plate)*

And Moses stretched forth his rod toward Heaven, and there was deep darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. *(everyone close eyes for 30 seconds)*

Adult or child: Story of Passover

And it came to pass at midnight, the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt died. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was death in every Egyptian home.

But the sons of Israel were spared. The Lord had commanded every family to take a lamb that had nothing wrong with it and sacrifice it in the evening to keep their children safe.

Adult or child: Exodus 12

God said: "Take the blood and put it on the two sides and on the top of the doors of your houses. Roast the lamb and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. This is the Lord's Passover."

"For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and all the firstborn will die. But when I see the blood, I will pass over you and you will be spared."

God told Moses that the people should eat the special meal every year to remember what He had done for them.

Adult or Child: Jesus as Lamb of God

Now we have Jesus, the "Lamb of God." His blood saves us from eternal death and is our salvation so that we may be passed over in the final judgment. (*pass around the cross*)

So our God took Israel from Egypt; he brought judgment upon their enemies; he allowed them to pass through the Red Sea; he met their needs in the wilderness; he gave us the scriptures through them; he sent us our Savior. Thank Him and praise His name!

Adult: The Cup of Deliverance

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who redeemed us and our ancestors from Egypt, and has brought us to this night. So, O Lord our God, bring us to other festivals in coming days. Then shall we give thanks to you. Blessed are you, O Lord, Redeemer of Israel.”

Everyone: “Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.” (*everyone drink small cup of juice #2*)

Adult: The Z’roah

Concerning the Z’roah – the Passover Lamb, we have only a symbol as part of our observance (*pass around lamb picture or stuffed animal lamb*). It is a reminder of how the blood sacrifice of the original Passover lamb spared the people from the plague of death.

The Passover Lamb has much significance to us today. It was meant as a symbol of our Lamb, Jesus Christ. The lamb was to be:

1. Perfect, without blemish
2. No bones to be broken
3. Chosen five days before Passover feast, as Jesus was chosen as he entered Jerusalem five days before Passover
4. Killed at 3 P.M. on the day of the Passover
5. Blood spilled was for sanctification (to save us)

The Lord our God has given us his Word so that we may understand these truths: “Worthy is the Lamb that has been slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing.” Revelation 5:12 (*light the # 3 candle*)

Child: The Beitzah

The Beitzah (egg) symbolizes the lamb sacrifice brought to the temple at Passover, as commanded by God to Moses in the wilderness. But it also reminds us of the destruction of the Temple; that there are no longer any sacrifices being made. *(pass around pieces of hard boiled egg and have everyone eat some)*

Adult: The Matzah

Leaven makes bread rise and become soft and airy. Just a little bit of leaven will make a whole loaf of bread rise. Since there was not enough time for the dough of the Israelites to rise before the Lord freed them from Egypt, he commanded them to eat unleavened bread.

The Bible tells us that leaven is like sin. When we do one thing that is disobedient to God, our whole lives can become that way. Even though God forgives us when we sin, this unleavened bread is a reminder that we must try to live our lives in a way that is faithful to God.

Adult: The Bitter Herbs

Two Bitter Herbs, maror (horseradish) and chazeret (romaine), represent the lives of the Israelites while they were in Egypt. We remember their sorrows, but we are grateful for our deliverance from spiritual sorrow through the Lamb of God. We must also care for those whose lives are filled with bitterness today.

God has brought us from slavery to freedom and from sorrow to joy. Therefore we praise, thank, glorify and adore God who performed all these miracles for the Israelites and for us.

Child: Charoset

Charoset (applesauce) represents the mortar the Jews used to grind for their Egyptian masters. It has been crushed like mortar, and it has a similar color and texture. *(pass around the applesauce and have everyone take some but not eat it)*

Adult: The Koreich

(Give each person a piece of Matzah) “Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us by his commandments, and has commanded us to eat unleavened bread.”

According to scripture, a bit of maror (horseradish) and chazeret (romaine) are placed on the matzah to represent the bitterness. According to tradition, *charoset* (applesauce) is added to the matzah. *(everyone make a little sandwich of maror, charoset, and chazeret with their matzah and eat it)*

Adult: The Hidden Matzah – the afikomen

Now it is time to find the afikomen matzah. You may go search for it, and the one who finds it must bring it to me and I will “redeem” it for a price. *(offer change or play money to the person who finds the afikomen)*

As said earlier, the afikomen is a symbol of Jesus. It has now been returned, symbolizing Jesus’ return from the dead. Notice that it has no leaven, just as Jesus was without sin. Just as it was broken, he was broken and died for us. And like the price that was paid for its return, Jesus paid the price for our salvation. *(light the # 4 candle)*

Child: Read Luke 22:14-20

It was this afikomen matzah that Jesus used for what we now call the Lord’s Supper or Communion: Jesus took unleavened bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke

it saying, this is my body, which is given for you - do this in remembrance of Me. *(Break, give everyone a piece to eat)*

Adult: The Cup of Redemption

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. This cup was also used by Jesus for the Lord's Supper: And He took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for forgiveness of sins. *(everyone drink small cup of juice #3)*
We remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Blessed is the Lord our God!

Everyone: The Barech

(This is the grace after the meal that is traditionally sung by everyone present. If you choose to include this, sing or play a song that your family and guests are already familiar with)

Adult: The Cup of Acceptance

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine." *(everyone drink small cup # 4)*

Adult: Final Blessing or Hallel

May the Lord rule over us forever. May the Lord be blessed in Heaven and on earth. May the Lord sustain us and send us his blessings. May the Lord allow us to see the day of the Messiah's return. May He who makes peace in His highest heavens grant His peace to us and to all people. Amen.

