

4winds Fellowships Passover

Preliminary Readings: Exodus 12:1-33 & Luke 22:1-13

I. Search for Leaven by children (Removal of all things that offend God)

A. Passover is observed by Christians in a new way: 1 Cor. 5:6-8 *“Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast**, not in old leaven, nor in the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

B. Prayer of Repentance: *“Blessed are You Eternal GOD, Ruler of all Creation, may this Passover season be a time of reflection and rededication, may we each “cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God, Amen” (2 Cor. 7:1).*

II. Candle Lighting (Have a woman light the candles and recite the prayer)

A. At Creation *“GOD said, Let there be light: and there was light.”*

B. In the Law, God instructed Israel to make the Menorah, which the priests were required to keep burning continually day and night.

C. In the New Covenant, Jesus was the *“Light of the World”* when He was here, and his followers were to be *“lights of the world”* when He left.

D. LIGHT symbolizes the knowledge of God revealed to man.

2 Cor. 4:6 *“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*

E. Just as a woman has been chosen to bring light to our table, so also The LORD chose Mary to bring His LIGHT into the world in human flesh.

III. The 1st Cup, “The Cup of Blessing of Election”

A. There are **4 cups** derived from Exodus 6:6-7. *“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.’”*

1. CUP of BLESSING (of election): *"I will bring you out from under the burden of the Egyptians"*
2. CUP of JUDGMENT: *"I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments"*
3. CUP of SALVATION: *"I will rescue you from their bondage"*
4. CUP of PRAISE: *"I will take you as My people, and I will be your God."*

B. There are the four stages of God's deliverance, described in Romans 8:28-31 LGV. *"Now we have observed that everything works together for good for those loving God, (those being called in accord with His proposal); [and] that those whom He knew previously He **predefined** [to be] fashioned from the image of His Son, for Him to be the firstborn among many brothers. And whom He predefined, these He also **called**. And whom He called, these He also **justified**. And whom He justified, these He also **glorified**. What then shall we say [in response] to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"*

- A. He PREDEFINED (chose) us to be conformed to the image of His Son
- B. He also CALLED us out of the Kingdom of Darkness
- C. He also JUSTIFIED us through Jesus, the Lamb of God
- D. He will GLORIFY us at Christ's return

C. Prayer: *"Blessed be the LORD GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, King of all Creation, Who has made distinction between light and darkness, between Israel and the Nations, between the Sabbath and the other six days, between right and wrong, between believers and unbelievers, Who has chosen us to be His own special treasure, to be conformed to the image of His only begotten Son, so that He might be **the principle heir among many brothers**."*(Rom. 8:29)

D. Drink the first cup of "BLESSING of God's ELECTION."

IV. Hand Washing

A. The Law required that the hands be washed before eating. The Gospel teaches that we must be washed thoroughly (symbolized by our baptism) before we come to the Lord's Table, in purity of heart and body.

B. Titus 3:3-7 LGV *"For we also used to be foolish, stubborn, being deceived, being slaves to various desires and lusts, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But when the kindness and benevolence of God our savior appeared, not from deeds of justice which we did, but according to His mercy He rescued us through the bath*

of rebirth and renewal of the holy Breath, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our savior, so that having been justified in His grace, we may become inheritors according to the hope of permanent life."

C. Wash hands using bowl of water, reminding us of our baptism.

D. Recite the Lord's Prayer together, **raising clean hands**: *"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."*

V. The Dipping of the Hyssop ^{12 O'clock Position}

A. Ex 12:22-23 *"And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will **pass over** the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you."*

B. Parsley represents the "hyssop" used to apply the blood to the doorposts.

C. The salt water represents "tears" of the slavery in Egypt and to sin.

D. Dip parsley in salt water & eat.

1. The blood of the Lamb of God removes our sorrows and regrets from our former slavery to sin.

VI. Breaking the Middle Matzah (from stack of 3 matzahs)

A. The matzah represents Abraham's righteous descendants, with the middle Matza being the Messiah. *"For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to **the seed of Abraham**. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, ..."* (Heb 2:14-17). Jesus said that the unleavened bread represented His body of flesh (*"this is My body"*).

B. Remove the middle Matzah from between the other two, break it down the middle, wrap half in a napkin and have a child hide it away, to be retrieved later.

1. The hidden half symbolizes Jesus' ascension to heaven – the "Head."
2. The remaining half symbolizes the assembly, His "Body" remaining among mankind to provide "light" in His absence.

VII. The 4 Questions: (Asked by a child, answered by the leader)

A. "Why do we keep the Passover each year?"

Answer: *"To remind us that God has freed us from slavery to sin, that blood had to be shed for our salvation, and that we must not go back to our old life."*

B. "Why do we eat both leavened and unleavened bread on other nights, but on this night we only eat unleavened bread?"

Answer: *"Just as the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, we too were slaves to sin. Removing leaven represents the removal of sin which God hates."*

C. "Why do we eat all kinds of herbs on other nights, but on this night we only eat bitter herbs?"

Answer: *"We eat only bitter herbs to remind us of the suffering and anguish of the consequences of our sin, from which the LORD rescued us."*

D. "Why did they eat the first Passover in a hurry, but we do not?"

Answer: *"The first Passover was eaten in a hurry because God was going to deliver them from slavery and bring them out of Egypt as soon as the sun rose in the morning. We relax because we have already been rescued from slavery. We have rest, peace, and deliverance through the sacrifice of the Lamb of God."*

VIII. 2nd Cup, "The Cup of JUDGMENT"

A. CALLED out of slavery: God must afflict our adversary so we can escape

1. He judged Pharaoh, first with plagues, then total destruction.

2. He will judge Satan's kingdom with plagues, then total destruction.

B. Dip finger in cup 10 times, let drip while naming each plague:

- Blood
- Frogs
- Vermin
- Flies
- Cattle disease
- Boils
- Hail
- Locusts
- Darkness
- Death

C. Drink the second cup.

IX. Eating of the Bitter Herbs 3 O'clock Position

A. Ex. 1:13-14 *"And the Egyptians made the Children of Israel to serve with rigor. And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field; all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigor."*

B. The bitter herbs remind us of the bitter taste of slavery of our fathers in Egypt, and the bitter taste of our former slavery to sin and Satan.

C. Prayer: "Blessed are You, O LORD our GOD, King of all Creation, Who has delivered us from our hard bondage by the blood of the covenant."

D. Eat the bitter herbs

X. Eating the Lamb 6 O'clock Position

A. The "Lamb of God" had to die so we could live. John 1:29 *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"* (1 Cor. 5:7) *"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."*

XI. Eating of the Sweet Charoset 9 O'clock Position

A. Distribute a small piece of **the remaining middle Matzah** to each person

B. Scoop up the Charoset with the matzah and eat together

C. Remaining middle matzah represents the assembly (Body of Christ on earth), and the charoset represents sweet FELLOWSHIP in our collective deliverance by the LAMB of God.

INTERLUDE TO SERVE MAIN MEAL

XII. Eating the Hidden Matzah "after Supper" & Drinking the 3rd Cup

A. Have the child retrieve the hidden Matzah

B. After the meal, Jesus took **the hidden Matzah**, broke it, and gave it to His disciples. *"This is my body which is broken for you, do this in remembrance of Me."*

1. Break hidden Matzah & give to each person. (Offer Thanksgiving)

C. Next Jesus took the third cup, the cup of redemption: *"Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. ... But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And **I am covenanting the kingdom with you, just as My Father has covenanted with Me,**"*

so that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

1. All drink the 3rd cup.

XIII. The Empty Seats for future Passovers

1. Empty seat for Elijah: In the tribulation, Elijah will come to preach repentance to Israel, to announce the Day of the Lord, and lead Passover celebrations at the Temple in Jerusalem for Israel. Mal 4:4-6 *"Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

2. Empty seat for John the Apostle: John was told that he would be a second prophet to accompany Elijah. Rev. 10:8–11:3 LGV *"And the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again saying, "'Go, take the little scroll open in the hand of the messenger standing on the sea and on the land.' And I went to the messenger, asking him to give me the little scroll. And he says to me, 'Take and eat it. It will make your stomach bitter. But in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.' And I took the little scroll from the hand of the messenger and ate it. And it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. And when I had eaten it, my stomach was bitter. And they said to me, 'It is necessary for you to prophesy again against many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings. And a reed like a measuring rod was given to me and I was told, 'Arise and measure the Temple of God, the altar, and those worshipping in it. And exclude the court outside the temple. You should not measure it, because it was given to the Gentiles (and they will trample the holy city forty-two months). And I will give to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in mohair." John also introduced Revelation with: "I, John, (your brother and companion **in the tribulation**, and in the Kingdom ..." (Rev. 1:9).*

3. Empty seat for KING JESUS CHRIST: Jesus will personally lead Passover celebrations in the Kingdom. Luke 22:15-16 *"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.'" Matt. 28:28. "'But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."*

XIV. The 4th Cup, "The Cup of Praise!"

1. The 4th cup celebrates the day when God will remember His covenant with Abraham and His Seed, and He will send His Son – the heir of creation – to raise the dead and restore the Land to His people.
2. Jesus and His disciples sung a hymn at the end of their Passover celebration.
3. Sing a hymn.