

**7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)****Lesson Plan:** The Last Supper (pt. 1)**Learning Goals:** Through the experience of an adapted Passover Seder, students should have the opportunity to review their knowledge of the Passover and compare that to the ministry of Jesus.**Question:** What was the Passover? Why was it important?**Seder Meal Script**

(Leader)

**Welcome (Father)**

Welcome to our Passover Seder. Today we are celebrating Passover. Our Seder meal today is based on the traditional Jewish celebration of Passover, but adapted into a uniquely Christian celebration.

This tradition reminds us that God did not begin the revelation of God's self in this world with Christians, but with the Hebrews. It also reminds us that Jesus was not a Christian, but a Jew. It is only in recognizing that connection that we can truly appreciate who we are as people of God.

Through this traditionally ordered ritual, we will retell the story of the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. We will eat special foods that symbolize Passover's many messages. We will hear together the story of an ancient and compelling story. We are asked to experience the bitterness of oppression and the sweetness of freedom so we may better understand the hope and courage of all men and women, of all generations, in their quest for liberty, security and human rights.

We have before us family and friends, a beautifully prepared table, and a seder plate. Let us enjoy, learn and relive the dramatic and miraculous story of Passover.

## **Lighting the Passover Candle (Mother)**

Before the Seder begins, we light and recite the blessing over the festival candles. The candles symbolize the transition to a new day and remind us that Passover is a holy time.

Let Us pray together, using the litany on page 2 in your order of worship...

Hear, Israel, the students of Veritas Christian Academy, and all people of God: the Lord our God is one. Love your God with your whole heart: love him with all that is in you, love him with all you've got!

**We offer God our love and gratitude today and we pray for grace to ever offer more.**

Write God's commandments on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children.

**We will talk about them wherever we are, sitting or walking in the street. We will talk about them from the time we get up in the morning until we fall into bed at night.**

When your children ask the meaning of God's requirements, tell them they are to help them live reverently before God.

**We want to prepare ourselves, our children, and our children's children to live righteously before God.**

*(As we light the candles at our tables, please say this prayer together)*

*Blessed are You, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with laws and commanded us to light the holiday candles.  
Amen.*

## Seder Plate

*(with each of the things you are telling about, raise it up and show it so that the people will see it and look for it on their tables.)*

**Father:** On your table is the Seder plate on which there are foods that have symbolic meaning:

**Mother: The ZEROA**, a roasted shankbone of lamb. You will only see this at the front table, but know it is to remind us of the special lamb that was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem on Passover as an offering to God. It reminds us not only of God's wonderful grace in providing for us life and not death, but also that we are called to obedience in response to God's gift of life.

**Father: The BE-IT-ZAH** is the boiled egg. It is smooth and round and symbolizes the new life that comes with springtime and God's unconfined and unending grace.

**Mother: MAROR**, is a bitter herb. On your table it is horseradish. It reminds us of the of bitterness of Egyptian bondage.

**Father: CHA-RO-SET** is a mixture of juice, nuts, and apples that represents the mortar used by Jewish slaves to make the pyramids for Pharaoh.

**Mother: KARPAS** is a green vegetable. On your table it is the parsley. It reminds us that Passover occurs in springtime when new life brings a feeling of hope.

The MATZAH is a cracker made from unleavened dough. Because the Israelites had to leave in a hurry, they did not have time to wait for the bread to rise.

**Father:** The last item on your table is a small bowl of salt water. This represents the tears of suffering that becomes tears of joy when we move from slavery to freedom.

## Kadesh/The Blessing

**Mother:** The grape juice on your table symbolizes the “joy of life.” Today we will drink from the juice cup four times during the Seder. Each time represents God’s four promises to the Israelites of redemption from slavery, which are mentioned in the Book of Exodus, Chapter 13.

**Father:** Those Promises are:

I will free you. I will deliver you. I will redeem you. I will take you to be My people.

**Mother:** With the first sip of juice we recall the first promise, “I am Adonai, and I will free you from slavery in Egypt.”

**Father:** Please read the blessing on page 3 with me.

Blessed are you, Eternal God, for selecting us as being worthy of Your covenant.

**And for sanctifying us through Your commandments.**

In Your love, You have given us Sabbaths for rest, festivals for rejoicing, holidays and seasons of joy.

**We celebrate, in love, the time of freedom, the sacred occasion commemorating the Exodus from Egypt.**

Blessed are You, Eternal God, Who sanctifies your people and the festivals.

*Blessed are You, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who has kept us alive and sustained us and allowed us to reach this season.*

*Amen.*

*All take a sip from the cup of juice.*

## **Karpas/Blessing the Green Vegetable (Mother)**

We remember that it was springtime when the Passover story took place. As we dip greens in salt water, we remember the tears of our ancestors who suffered as slaves in Egypt and the tears of those who still are not free today.

Please read responsively with me on page 4.

...We rejoice in the fact that God works in all circumstances of life.

**Set me a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one is offered all the wealth of his house of love, it would be utterly scorned.**

*~Song of Songs 8:6-7~*

We remember that the struggle for freedom begins in suffering and that life is sometimes immersed in tears.

*(Dip the parsley in salt water and please say the prayer in unison.)*

***Blessed are You, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.***

***Amen.***

*(Eat the parsley)*

## **Yachatz/Breaking and Blessing of the Matzah (Father)**

The matzah is the “Matzah of Hope.” The Seder is a celebration of deliverance already accomplished. There is also recognition of yet-to-be fulfilled promises of God that all creation will be restored and all oppression, sin and evil will be destroyed. We have faith and hope in God’s future.

*Please read the prayer with me on page 5.*

...It is only the grace of our Lord God that sets us free.

**This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. All who are hungry come and eat. All who are needy come and celebrate Passover with us.**

*Everyone at your table will lift up a piece of matzah and pray in unison*

**Blessed are you, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.**

**Blessed are you, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with laws and commanded us to eat matzah.**

**This year we are here.**

**This year we are still slaves.**

**Next year may we all be free. Amen.**

*Following the prayer, break the matzah in two, but don’t eat it yet.*

## The Four Questions

**Father:** The Torah tells us that our children will ask questions about who they are as God's people. The Lord has instructed us that we should tell them the story that they might know the Lord. It is a privilege to answer the four questions of the Passover and to recount the gracious acts of our God.

**Child:** On all other days we eat either leavened or unleavened bread. Why on this day do we eat only matzah?

**Mother:** This day is different from all other days because of our unique celebration of freedom. We eat only matzah to highlight the tale of our hasty exodus from Egypt.

**Child:** On all other days we eat all kinds of herbs. Why on this day do we eat only bitter herbs?

**Father:** We eat bitter herbs so that we too may sample at least a taste of bitterness.

**Child:** On all other days, most people don't dip their foods even once. Why on this day do we need to dip twice?

**Mother:** We dip our bitter herbs twice, once in salt water and once in sweet charoset, as we remember both the salty tears of our ancestors and the sweetness of their hope for freedom.

**Child:** Why on all other days do we eat in the normal way, but on this day we eat with special ceremony?

**Father:** Once we worshipped idols and were enslaved by our sins, but God in God's goodness and mercy forgave our transgressions and called us to be God's people.

Please read responsively with me from page 6. *(Pause)*

...We were all slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt.

**And, Adonai our God delivered us with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.**

If God had not brought our ancestors out of Egypt, then we, our children and our children's children would have remained slaves.

**So even if all of us were scholars, full of understanding and wisdom, it would still be our obligation to tell the story of how we left Egypt.**

Everyone who studies the meaning of the Exodus from Egypt deserves praise.

***We praise you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, who hears the cries of the oppressed, who brings freedom to the captive and who creates for yourself a people.***

*Please take time to pray silently for those who are not free and how we can protect and assure the freedom of all people. **Amen.***



## The Story (Mother)

Many years ago, long before any of us were born, there was a wicked king called Pharaoh who ruled in the land of Egypt. Many Israelites lived there peacefully with the Egyptians. Pharaoh was afraid there were too many Israelites and they were becoming too powerful. He commanded that they become slaves and forced them to build cities and palaces for him. Even Israelite children had to work for Pharaoh.

Pharaoh was mean to all the Israelites. He didn't want Israelite children to grow to be adults. One Israelite mother, who wanted to protect her child, put her baby in a basket made of reeds and placed him in the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughter, the princess, was bathing in the river and found the baby. She brought him to her palace and named him Moses, which means "pulled from the water." The princess knew Moses was an Israelite, but she kept it a secret and raised him as a prince.

As Moses grew to be a man, he found out he was an Israelite and he saw how cruel Pharaoh was. One day he saw an Egyptian beating a slave. Moses became angry and killed the Egyptian. He feared for his life, so he fled Egypt and became a shepherd in a faraway land.

One day, while tending his sheep, Moses saw a bush that was on fire. But it was not burning up. From the bush came God's voice. The voice told Moses to go back to Egypt to free Children of Israel and take them far away. Moses returned to Egypt and went to see Pharaoh. "If you do not free the Children of Israel, you shall be punished," Moses told Pharaoh. But Pharaoh didn't believe Moses and said, "No!" God was angry with the Egyptians ten times. These punishments are called the ten plagues.

## The Ten Plagues (Father)

These are the plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians in Egypt. Now as we mention each plague, please dip your finger into the juice cup and place a drop on your plate.

Blood.  
Frogs.  
Lice.  
Swarms.  
Cattle Disease.  
Boils.  
Hail.  
Locusts.  
Darkness.  
Death.

At last, Pharaoh was frightened and let the Israelites go. They hurried out of Egypt, without time to bake bread for their journey. Instead, they put raw dough on their backs, which the sun baked into hard crackers called matzot. The Children of Israel followed Moses to the edge of the Sea of Reeds and God divided the sea.

The Israelites crossed safely on dry land to the other side. Pharaoh changed his mind and told his soldiers to chase after them. When the Israelites were safely past the sea, the sea fell upon Pharaoh's soldiers. Moses led the Israelites safely into the desert toward the Promised Land. Miriam, Moses' sister, led the Israelites in dance and song, as they celebrated their long-awaited freedom.

On their journey that would lead them to the Promised Land, the children of Israel entered into a covenant with God at Mount Sinai and received the commandments.

## Dayenu/It is Enough (Father)

Dayenu means, “It would have been enough for us.” The meaning of this hymn is that any one of the things God did for us, as mentioned in each verse would have been enough to deserve our gratitude.

As I read each verse, please respond with the words, “It would have been enough for us.”

Had God only taken us out of Egypt—

**It would have been enough for us.**

Had God only given us Sabbath—

**It would have been enough for us.**

Had God only given us Torah—

**It would have been enough for us.**

Had God only brought us to the Land of Israel—

**It would have been enough for us.**

We recall God’s second promise,

*“I will deliver you from bondage.”*

*Blessed are You, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.*

*All take a second sip from the cup of juice.*

## The Bitter Herbs

**Mother:** Let us each dip a piece of matzah into the *maror* as we recall the bitterness of slavery.

*After dipping the matzah into the maror, please recite the blessing.*

**Blessed are You, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with laws and commanded us to eat bitter herbs.**

*Please taste the matzah and maror, but remember the maror is bitter and spicy.*

## Korech—Hillel’s Sandwich

**Father:** When the ancient Temple still stood, Hillel would make a sandwich of matzah and maror and eat it together with charoset. The charoset reminds us of the mortar used to glue the bricks together when Pharaoh’s cities were built.

Take a piece of matzah and dip a spoonful of charoset onto the matzah. Try it with maror, if you are brave....

## The Shankbone/Zeroa

**Mother:** The Torah speaks of God’s outstretched arm (zeroa). The shankbone helps us remember God’s might. It reminds us, too, of the special lamb that was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem on Passover as an offering to God.

## The Egg/Beitzah

**Father:** With the egg, we remember the new life the Children of Israel made for themselves when they left slavery so long ago. It is customary to dip your egg in salt water before you taste it.

## Serving the Meal

## **Blessing After the Meal**

**Father:** It is a mitzvah (commandment) to say Grace after meals. As it is written, "When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless Adonai, your God for the good land which God has given you."

Please read from page 10 as we read the prayer in unison.

**Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who in goodness, mercy, and kindness gives food to the world.**

**Blessed is our God, whose food we have eaten and by whose goodness we live.**

**Praised are You, Adonai our God, who provides food for all life.**

**Blessed be Your name forever in the mouth of every living thing.**

**Praised be the Creator of Life.**

**Mother:** We recall the third divine promise, "I will redeem you with an outstretched arm."

**Blessed are You, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.**

*All drink for the third time from the cup of juice.*

## Eliyahu/Elijah's Cup (Father)

There is an extra cup of juice at this table. This is the cup for Elijah the prophet. Elijah did not see death but was taken to heaven in a chariot of fire. It has been the hope of God's people that Elijah would come at Passover, to announce the coming of the Messiah, the son of David. The cup has traditionally been left untouched, awaiting the time when Elijah would appear to share the Passover.

Jesus stood in the synagogue of his hometown of Nazareth and read from the Isaiah scroll that promised a new work of God in the world. When he had finished reading he said, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

We still live in the "today of that fulfillment, and so we celebrate the coming of Jesus the Messiah, and the faithfulness of God in working throughout history to bring deliverance and freedom to his people.

Jesus has brought to us a new freedom from the chains of oppression and sin that enslave us. Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples on the night before he was betrayed and delivered up to be crucified.

We no longer wait for Elijah. We celebrate in joy today not only because Elijah has come, but because messiah has also come.

Please read the prayer on p. 11 responsively.

It is our duty to thank and praise, laud and glorify, extol and honor, exalt and adore God

**Who performed all these miracles for our fathers and mothers and for us.**

May it be your will to bring all families who are suffering persecution into freedom

**As you brought our ancestors to freedom.**

May we be worthy to enjoy the Passover together

**With all the families of Israel in freedom and unity.**

*Please raise your juice cup toward the candle on your table.*

As we drink from our cups for the final time, remember our covenant with God, who reminds us that tasks still await us as a people, and validates a great purpose for which the people of Israel live: The preservation and affirmation of hope.

**Blessed are You, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.**

*All drink for the fourth time from the cup of juice.*

**Next Year in Jerusalem. Next Year May we all be free.**

For us, we will sing of the Christ community that is Ecclesia and of Christ who joins us together in love.

**Amen.**

## A Song of Love—What Wondrous Love is This

You will find the words to this hymn in your order of worship. Please join together in song.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb Who is the great 'I am';  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be;  
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And through eternity, I'll sing on.



## **The Benediction (Father)**

At this time, let us stand, join hands and hearts, and honor the call of Passover. (Pause)

God, we have heard the call to accept your gift of freedom.

Let us rise up with courage and grasp hold of freedom that we might fashion a world more strongly committed to justice, kindness, and humility—which was and is the way of the prophets of Jesus.

Praying the words of St. Francis...

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow peace;

Where there is doubt, let us sow faith;

Where there is despair, let us give hope;

Where there is darkness, let us give light;

Where there is sadness, let us give joy.

We pray in the name of the Christ.

Amen.

Adapted from:

*Family Haggadah: A Seder for All Generations*

by Elie M. Gindi

*Let Us Break Bread Together: A Passover Haggadah for Christians*

by Pastor Michael Smith and Rabbi Rami Shapiro