

homeroom

MARRIAGE & FAMILY MENTORING MEMBERSHIP

PASSOVER

GUIDE

From the Gospels of John 13-17, Luke 22, Matthew 26



— **Introduction:** The following is a way to experience Passover with your family through what is called the Last Supper. Our family spent many years enjoying traditional Passover Seders along with Seders that wove elements of Jesus into traditional Seders, but one year when I was reading through the Gospel of John it struck me how much incredible detail John gives to the Last Supper.

In a Gospel that is designed to give us an understanding of Jesus' life John spends a full one third of his Gospel on a single evening! Why? Well, my hunch is that John wanted to give future Christians an updated Passover Seder complete with questions from the disciples, object lessons and even a couple of activities. What a gift!

While I don't believe there is one "right way" that a follower of Jesus should celebrate Passover it makes sense to me that the guide given in the New Testament should at least be considered as an option and for any family looking to give this a try and that's why we've compiled this simple resource.

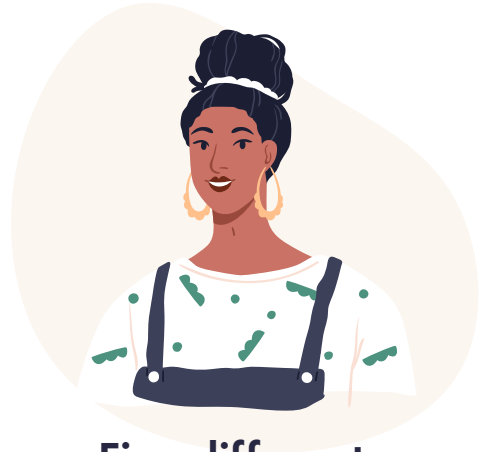
— **Preparation:**

1. Every family bring
 - A large bowl for foot washing
 - A couple of towels
 - A bottle of red wine or grape juice
 - Bread or matzah
 - A main dish or side dish (wrapped to stay warm)
2. Find a tree or a vine you can gather around for Part 5
3. Setup a seating area outside for Part 7
4. Optional
 - Simple costume elements like a sash when the leader is playing the part of Jesus

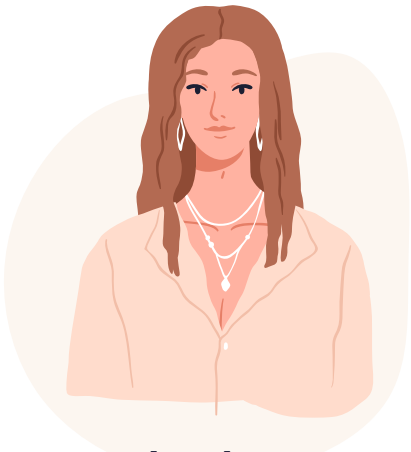
— Roles



Leader



**Five different
readers 1-5**



Role Players

(to read the part of the disciples)

Jesus	Thomas
Peter (with a play sword)	Philip
Judas Iscariot	Judas (not Iscariot)
John	Temple Guard



Worship Lead

(to lead singing or play songs from a device)

Part 1

FOOT WASHING (BEFORE THE MEAL)

Leader: Reads the introduction above.

Reader 1: Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Leader: Takes off outer garment. Fills a bowl with warm water and washes the feet of any other fathers in the room. Those fathers in turn wash the feet of their families. The leader washes the feet of his family (if there are too many he can have his wife or one of his kids wash as well after their feet has been washed).

Worship: Play a song during the feet washing (suggestion: O the Deep Deep Love of Jesus)

Reader 1: He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

Peter: "Lord, do you wash my feet?"

Jesus: "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."

Peter: "You shall never wash my feet."

Jesus: "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."

Peter: "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus: "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."

Reader 1: For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them,

Jesus: "Do you understand what I have done to you?"



Discussion

- What are some ways to answer Jesus' question?
- What do you think Jesus meant by "you are clean"?

Jesus: You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."



Discussion

- What stands out to you in what Jesus says here?

Part 2

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Leader: Take a piece of bread or matzah and hold it up

Reader 2: When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table.

[EVERYONE BE SEATED AT THE TABLE]

Jesus: I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."

[EVERYONE LIFT UP A CUP OF WINE OR JUICE]

Reader 2: Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said,

Jesus: Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come. He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying,

[EVERYONE DRINKS THE 1ST CUP]

Jesus: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Reader 2: After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified,

Jesus: "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."

Reader 2: The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, 24 so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. 25 So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him,

John: "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus: "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it."

Reader 2: So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him,

Jesus: "What you are going to do, do quickly."

Reader 2: Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

Judas: [Looks around at everyone and quickly leaves the room]



Discussion

- How do you think Jesus is feeling at this point?
- Why do you think Judas is willing to betray Jesus?

[SERVE THE FIRST COURSE OF THE MEAL]

Part 3

THE COMMAND OF JESUS

Leader: Take a piece of bread or matzah and hold it up

Reader 3: When Judas had gone out, Jesus said,

Jesus: “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. 33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”



Discussion

- What was the new command Jesus gave to his disciples?
- What are some ways we can love one another the way we’ve been loved by Jesus?

Reader 3: Simon Peter said to him

Peter: “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”

Peter: “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

Jesus: Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers. Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

Jesus: Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going."

Reader 3: Thomas said to him,

Thomas: "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip: Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.

Jesus: Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Play or Sing a worship song - Suggestion: Good, Good Father

Leader: Give thanks for the food

[SERVE AND EAT THE MAIN COURSE]

Part 4

AFTER DINNER AT THE TABLE

Leader: Everyone lift up a cup of wine or juice

Reader 4: After supper he took another cup of wine and said,

Jesus: This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

[EVERYONE DRINKS THE 2ND CUP]

Jesus: 28 “You have stayed with me in my time of trial. 29 And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right 30 to eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Jesus: “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

Judas (not Iscariot): “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”

Jesus: If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Jesus: I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Jesus: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.



Discussion

- What stands out in what Jesus says?
- What are some ways the Holy Spirit teaches us and leads us into all truth?

**[EVERYONE TAKES 10-15 MINUTES TO CLEAN UP FROM DINNER
WHILE PLAYING WORSHIP MUSIC]**

Part 5

ABIDING IN THE VINE

Leader: Everyone lift up a cup of wine or juice

Jesus: Rise, let us go from here

[EVERYONE GOES OUTSIDE AND GATHERS AROUND A VINE OR TREE]

Jesus: [Points to the vine (or trunk) and branches as he says the following lines.]

Jesus: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Jesus: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.



Discussion

- What stands out to you from what Jesus says?
- What are some ways we can abide in the vine?

Worship - Nothing I Hold Onto

Part 6

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Jesus: Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. 21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. 23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Jesus: "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

John: Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God."

Jesus: Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



Discussion

- How do you think this impacted the disciples? How does it hit your heart?

Part 7

PRAY THE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER.

Reader 4: Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane

[EVERYONE FIND A SEAT IN AN OUTDOOR GARDEN-LIKE AREA]

Jesus: "Sit here while I go over there to pray."

Reader 4: He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed.

Jesus: My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.

Reader 4: He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying,

Jesus: My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.

Reader 4: Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter,

Jesus: Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? 41 Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

Leader: Now we're going to read the most intimate prayer in all the Bible. This is the prayer Jesus prayed in the garden that was overheard by John.

Reader 4: When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said,

Jesus: Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Jesus: "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. 8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

Jesus: I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Jesus: "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

 **Discussion**

- Just before the Crucifixion what were some of the things that were on Jesus' heart?
- Which of those are often on your heart and which ones right now really are not?
- Any ideas on how we can practically play a part in answering Jesus' prayer?

Part 8

JESUS ARRESTED

Reader 5: Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove. Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped Jesus: “Who are you looking for?”

Temple Guard: “Jesus the Nazarene,”

Jesus: “I am he,”

Reader: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. As Jesus said “I am he,” they all drew back and fell to the ground! Once more he asked them,

Jesus: “Who are you looking for?”

Temple Guard: “Jesus the Nazarene.”

Jesus: I told you that I am he. And since I am the one you want, let these others go.

Reader 5: He did this to fulfill his own statement: “I did not lose a single one of those you have given me. Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him,

Judas: [Pretend kisses Jesus on the cheek]

Jesus: Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

Reader 5: Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s slave.

Peter: [Pretends to cut off the Temple Guard’s ear with a sword]

Jesus: Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given me? For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

Reader 5: So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up then led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance.



Discussion

- What stood out to you in this final part of the story?

[HAVE A WORSHIP/PRAYER TIME OUTSIDE IF IT'S NICE OR GO BACK INSIDE IF NOT]

Leader: In between worship songs take some time to pray out loud thanking Jesus for what he has done for us in submitting to the will of the Father and giving his life for us.

Suggested Song: How Deep the Father's Love, Jesus



Optional Activity for Kids

- Take long strips of paper and create a sash that stretches diagonally from shoulder to waist.
- Have the kids use crayons or markers to write different sins on the sash especially ones they've struggled with.
- Have them wear sashes during the Passover meal.
- As the final act have them put the sashes in a box.
- Talk about that Jesus death did not **ONLY** take away their sins but we also received his righteousness.
- Have them wear those sashes all day.