

MARCH

# PASSOVER

PRIMER



homeroom

MARRIAGE & FAMILY MENTORING MEMBERSHIP

**As a young father I was convinced that it was my job to disciple my kids but I was confused about exactly how to make that happen.**

Most Christian families lean almost exclusively on the church and children's programs to help their children grow spiritually.

But as soon as you realize how God gave this responsibility to us as parents we need to be equipped with tools.

I spent some time looking for a curriculum that would give me guidance on what topics were most important to cover and how to make the learning experience immersive and interactive.

At some point during my search it suddenly dawned on me that God had written a learning curriculum for children and had given that curriculum to parents to teach their children at home.

This curriculum is found in the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament) and is centered around the seven biblical feasts.

Each feast is fulfilled in Christ and so there is no obligation to celebrate them in order to fulfill the law (Colossians 2:16-17) but they provide an amazing map of the themes we most need our kids to understand and believe, beginning with Passover.

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (that happen about the same time) are the first festivals in the Torahic year.

There are three ways to celebrate the Passover:

- 1. A Traditional Jewish Passover Seder**
- 2. A Messianic Passover Seder**
- 3. A Reenactment of the Last Supper**

- **The Traditional Passover Seder** (Seder means “order” referring to the order of liturgical parts of the meal) involves participating in the way the Jewish people have evolved the practice. It centers on six types of food placed on a seder plate, four cups of wine and lots of matzah. These meals often last three or more hours and are guided by a booklet called a Haggadah which guides the participants through this extensive liturgy. The focus of the liturgy is recounting the journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. There are many versions of the traditional Haggadahs online that can be downloaded and printed or purchased.
- **The Messianic Passover Seder** is a derivative of the traditional Seder but weaves elements of Jesus into the experience. There are great Messianic Haggadah booklets that can be purchased online. My favorite is from the publishing company called First Fruits of Zion called “The Master’s Table”.
- Our family started by celebrating a traditional seder then we moved to the messianic seder but in recent years we’ve settled more on doing **a reenactment of the Last Supper** as our Passover celebration.

All are great options!

Because the traditional and messianic haggadahs are available online, if you choose to try one of those, we encourage you to purchase or download and print one or more booklets to help guide you through your Passover experience.

If you choose to celebrate Passover by reenacting the Lord’s Supper as described from John 13-17 then this month’s activation guide will walk you step-by-step through the process.

So what do you think? Here are some questions to discuss as you consider Passover observance:

- How do you feel about celebrating the Passover this year? What excites you? Does

anything cause you hesitation?

- Of the three options, which seems like the right fit for your family this year?
- Is there anyone you would like to invite to participate with your family?

**Happy Celebrating!**