

Passover

Opening Song: Passover Song: We Will Remember by Sarah Jackson

Host: Tonight is an important night, a night in which we celebrate a Biblical festival celebrated each year by Yah's people. We remember and celebrate how Yah protected the Israelites from the plagues that were sent upon Egypt, and we remember how He redeemed them from slavery to lead them to the Land He had promised to their ancestor Abraham.

Hostess: As we gather for this sacred celebration in the presence of friends and loved ones, let us remember that we are rejoicing with the whole house of Israel, both young and old, natural-born and grafted in.

Reader 1: This feast links us with the past because it is an ancient tradition, given by Yah Himself, that has been handed down from generation to generation. Our Messiah Yeshua celebrated this feast with His family and friends, and by doing the same, we are following His example.

Reader 2: We are able to celebrate this feast because we have been adopted into the family of Yah because of what our Messiah Yeshua did for us. We who once were far off have now been brought near through the blood of our Messiah, our Passover Lamb!

Reader 3: We celebrate today with the hope that the experience of Yah protecting, redeeming, and freeing will become part of our own personal experience.

Reader 4: We're so glad you're here to celebrate with us tonight!

Reader 5: Let's pray as we begin!

Host: Yah our God, Ruler of the universe, who has chosen us among all peoples and sanctified us with Your love, we praise You! With an everlasting love, You have given us feasts, holidays, and seasons for rejoicing. On this day of the Feast of Passover, we celebrate the salvation and the freedom that You have given us.

All: Yah our God, Ruler of the universe, we bless You! You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. HalleluYah! Amen!

Youngest Child: Why is this night different from all other nights?

Host: Yah commanded us to celebrate the Passover to remember the Israelites' slavery to the Egyptians and how He delivered them.

Reader 6: As we celebrate, we also remember our own slavery to sin and how Yah delivered us through Yeshua our Messiah.

Reader 7: When Yah gave the Israelites instructions for how to celebrate the Passover in Exodus 12, He said, "You must remove every trace of leaven from your homes."

Reader 3: That's right! When John the Baptist saw Yeshua coming toward him, he said, "Look, the Lamb of Yah, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Reader 4: Tonight we celebrate Messiah Yeshua, our Passover Lamb, and the salvation He has brought us!

Reader 5: When we eat unleavened bread or matzah, we now remember that Yeshua connected leaven with false teaching and hypocritical actions and urged us to beware of those things.

Reader 6: He also taught us that bread represents His body that was broken for us.

Reader 7: Unleavened bread points to Yeshua in some unique ways. The absence of leaven reminds us of His sinlessness.

Reader 8: Unleavened bread is pierced to keep it from puffing up and often has stripes from being cooked quickly on a hot grill, reminding us of the lines from Isaiah 53:5: "He was pierced for our transgressions... and by His stripes we are healed."

Reader 9: As we eat another piece of bread together now, let's think about the sacrifice that Yeshua made by offering himself on the cross to free us from the slavery of our sins.

(Everyone eat.)

Reader 10: Every Hebrew feast meal included drinking the fruit of the grapevine, symbolizing joy and abundant provision from Yah.

Reader 11: As with the other elements, Yeshua gave it a deeper meaning as well when He connected it to His own blood that He would shed for us — the ultimate abundant provision from Yah that would make our joy complete.

Reader 12: As we drink this fruit of the vine, let's remember Yeshua's blood that He shed for us. When Yah our Father sees Yeshua's blood on the doorposts of our hearts, He passes over and we are saved from death!

(Everyone drink.)

Host: Yah our God, King of the universe, who sanctifies us with Your commandments, who brings forth bread from the earth, and who has commanded us to eat the Passover, we bless You and we gladly obey Your commandments! Thank you for the gift of Your Son, our Passover Lamb. Amen.

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Songs:

Passover Us by Andrew Peterson

Isaiah 53 by Aaron Shust

Passover by Chris Eaton and Dave Bell

HalleluYah! by Tina Chen



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Reader 4: Even though it's not commanded, we follow this tradition as well because it reminds us of the mortar and the bricks that the slaves were forced to make in Egypt.

Reader 5: Its sweetness when eaten after the bitter herbs reminds us that Yah can turn even the most bitter experience into something sweet.

(Pass out charoset, and everyone eat.)

Reader 6: Why do we eat lamb?

Reader 7: We eat lamb because the Israelites sacrificed a perfect lamb on the night the angel of death passed over the land of Egypt.

Reader 8: They put its blood on their doorposts, and the angel of death passed over their households. The firstborn of their households were not killed.

(Dish out portions of lamb, and everyone eat.)

Reader 9: Why do we eat unleavened bread?

Reader 10: We eat unleavened bread because Yah commanded us to. We also do it to remember that the Israelites prepared bread in a hurry when they were delivered from Egypt.

Reader 11: When we eat this bread, we remember that leaven represents sin and being puffed up with pride, and we want our bodies to be pure before Yah.

(Pass out unleavened bread/matzah, and everyone eat.)

Reader 12: Yeshua helped us understand even deeper meanings of all of these parts of the Passover meal!

Reader 13: That's true! When we eat bitter herbs, we think of the bitterness of slavery. We were also slaves before we began to follow Yeshua. What were we enslaved to?

All children: Sin

Reader 14: When we dip the bitter herbs in salt water, we remember the tears the Israelites shed in slavery. Why did we shed tears of bitterness before we began to follow Yeshua?

Reader 15: Because we were slaves to sin, but since He saved us, we have new life!

Reader 16: When we eat charoset, we think about the mortar the slaves used to make bricks for the Egyptians. We also made our own bricks when we were in slavery to sin. What were those bricks?

Reader 1: Sins that we built around us like bricks making a wall. Sins like lying, anger, hatred, and pride.

Reader 2: When we eat the Lamb, we remember the true and perfect Passover Lamb who was sacrificed for all of our sins, Yeshua our Messiah!

Reader 8: After Yeshua died, was raised again, and ascended into heaven, His servant Paul explained why it is important and what it teaches us to get rid of all the leaven before celebrating Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

Reader 9: 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 says, "Don't you know that a little leaven works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old leaven that you may be a new batch without leaven—as you really are. For Messiah, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Reader 10: "Therefore let us keep the Feast, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with bread without leaven, the bread of sincerity and truth."

Reader 11: We worked really hard to make sure we got rid of all the leavened bread in our houses this week.

Reader 12: It was actually really challenging to make sure we got it all!

Reader 13: What does the leaven in that bread represent?

Reader 14: It represents sin, anger, wickedness, and being puffed up with pride.

Reader 15: Just like the leaven in our houses, it can be really challenging to make sure that we've gotten rid of all of it! We need to constantly listen to the Spirit and be ready to get rid of those things whenever He points them out to us.

Reader 16: Yah commanded that we are to tell each other the story of the first Passover so that we will always remember how He reached out to His people in their misery and lifted them up into freedom. Let's tell the story together.

Reader 1: After Joseph had brought all of his family to Egypt, he and his brothers eventually grew old and died, but their children's children stayed in Egypt and became a very large family!

Reader 2: Later on, a new king began to rule, but this pharaoh didn't remember Joseph and He didn't like Yah's people.

Reader 3: He made them into his slaves and beat them and made them work harder and harder until finally Yah's people cried out to Yah to rescue them.

Reader 4: And, of course, Yah heard them!

Reader 5: Yah chose Moses and his brother Aaron to lead His people out of their slavery in Egypt. He told them to go to Pharaoh and tell him that Yah said "Let My people go!"

Reader 6: They went and gave Pharaoh Yah's message,

Reader 7: but Pharaoh told them "NO!"

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Reader 8: So Moses told Aaron to throw down his walking stick and it became a snake, but that wasn't enough to convince Pharaoh!

Hostess: Because the story of the plagues can be very long, we're going to use a poem that teaches us about the ten plagues Yah sent to convince Pharaoh to let His people go! You'll notice that every time Yah sent a plague, Pharaoh still told Moses "No!"

Reader 9: Pharaoh Told Them No! by Elaine Osborne

Reader 10: Yah's people lived as slaves in Egypt for the Pharaoh
They worked with straw and clay and cried out to their God

Reader 11: Now Moses was the man Yah sent to speak to Pharaoh
To tell him Yah had said to "Let My people go!"

Reader 12: Ten plagues Yah sent to the Egyptians...

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 13: Ten plagues each worse than those before them
Ten plagues...would Pharaoh let them go?

Reader 14: The River Nile turned to blood...

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 15: Yah sent a plague of frogs...

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 16: Yah sent a plague of gnats...

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 1: Yah sent a plague of flies...

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 2: Then all the livestock died...

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 3: Yah sent a plague of boils...

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 4: Yah sent a plague of hail...

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 5: Yah sent a plague of locusts...

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 6: Yah sent three days of darkness...

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 7: Ten plagues Yah sent to the Egyptians
Ten plagues each worse than those before them

Reader 8: Ten plagues...would Pharaoh let them go?
Would Pharaoh let them go?

Everyone: But Pharaoh told them 'No!'"

Reader 9: Finally, after the first nine plagues, Moses warned Pharaoh, "Obey Yah or He will send the worst plague of all. If you do not let His people go, the firstborn son in each Egyptian family will die. Only those who obey me will live."

Youngest Child: but Pharaoh told them "NO!"

Reader 10: Yah told His people through Moses and Aaron to take their best lamb, kill it, and put some of its blood on their doorposts.

Reader 11: Then when He sent His angel to kill the firstborn sons of those who were disobeying Him, the angel would see the blood on the doorpost and pass over that house, leaving the firstborn son alive.

Reader 12: That night, they were to wait in their homes, ready to go as soon as Pharaoh released them.

Reader 13: And while they waited, they were to eat the lamb they had sacrificed along with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

Reader 14: It happened just as Yah said it would. While His people ate the first Passover meal, Yah's angel went through Egypt and killed the firstborn sons in every house that had not obeyed Yah's instructions. But those who had obeyed were saved.

Reader 15: When Pharaoh and the Egyptians realized what had happened, they not only let Yah's people go; they urged them to leave as quickly as possible and even gave them gifts to hurry them on their way!

Reader 16: Some of the Egyptians and other non-Israelites even left with them, deciding to follow Yah since He had proven Himself to be the most powerful God of all!

Hostess: What an amazing story! Each food that we will eat tonight reminds us of this awesome story of salvation and freedom. Just like Yah's people in the story, we will eat bitter herbs, unleavened bread, and lamb.

Reader 1: Why do we eat bitter herbs and dip them in salt water?

Reader 2: Yah commanded us to eat bitter herbs to remind us of the bitterness of slavery. And we follow the tradition of dipping them in salt water to remind us of the tears shed by the slaves.

(Pass out bitter herbs and salt water, and everyone eat.)

Reader 3: Why do we eat charoset?