

A CHRISTIAN SEDER

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Summary:

This is an outline of a Christian Passover service (Seder). This service design was used at the Briercrest Seminary Chapel in 2004-2006 and at House of ROC (www.houseofroc.net) during the same time. Please use songs according to CCLI and other copyright guidelines.

Length: 7 pages

Amplified seder Outline

With leaders notes and rubrics

A. Welcome

Explanations -Passover = (read “Easter” if you like.)Respectful creativity in light of scholarly debate regarding,--Last Supper –Lord’s Supper – Passover Seder ?

No matter our particular theology of continuity or discontinuity between the people of God in the covenants, it does seem clear that the Bible wants us to teach and to celebrate the wonderful things that our God has done.

Done in an attitude of reflection on the word of God (Deut 6:7; 11:19) Asking and Answering Questions. What does it mean? We have dispersed formal (and informal???) question times throughout.... The symbolism that we look at briefly here is so rich that there are many more explanations possible than the ones offered here. There are also many other traditional practices associated with Passover celebration that we have not included. Please forgive us if we have changed or omitted some that are dear to you.

Instructions

*Each Table elects or appoints an “Elder”,(Father or Rabbi)
The rest assume the role of “Children”*

B. Candle lighting

LIGHT

Some one at each table light the candles

Even though we know that God is everywhere all the time . . . by lighting candles we set apart a special time and space to bring to mind his goodness and to celebrate his love.

Light was the first thing created, it is symbolic of revelation, and of Jesus the Messiah who is the Light of the world.

Fire speaks of purification and judgement and the manifest presence of Almighty God.

Hebrew Prayer

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָמוֹת מֵאֲרִי הָאֵשׁ (אָמֵן)

Barukh atah Adonai Elohaynu melekh ha-olam, borei m'orei ha-eish. (Amein)

ALL Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who creates the light of the fire. (Amen)

C. Invitation / Questions

The kingdom was often portrayed in Jesus Parables as a feast, those invited into the kingdom were likened to those who had been likened to a feast. Hunger is used as a qualification/motivation for seeking the kingdom.

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never **hunger**, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." ^{NKJ} **John 6:35**

Jesus also said " Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." ^{NIV} **Matthew 5:6**

Why different, special ? [Illustration: what are we doing now?](#)
Do you remember going to church with lots of questions?

CHILDREN: "Why is this night different from all other nights?"

ELDERS: "This is the night we remember that God mightily delivered us from bondage.

D. First Blessing

Saying Grace Kiddush

BLESSING

Hebrew Prayer

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָמְסָהֶכַל נְהִיָה בְדַבְּרוֹ (אָמֵן)

Barukh atah Adonai Elohaynu melekh ha-olam, she-ha-kol nih'yeh bid'varo. (Amein)

ALL Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the Universe, by Whose will all things exist. (Amen)

Song: Blessed Be The Lord God Almighty

E. Searching for leaven

Bedikat cHamitz

In instructions to the People of God in for the Passover

Moses says "Do not eat it with bread made with yeast, but for seven days eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left Egypt in haste-so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt. ⁴ Let no yeast be found in your possession in all your land for seven days. Deut 16 (NIV)
In instructions to the New Covenant People of God

The original symbolism of unleavened bread related to the speed of God's deliverance. They were taken out of Egypt so quickly they didn't have time for the bread to rise.

So perhaps an application for us is about priorities.

Do you want to escape bondage, or do you want to wait for soft bread?

How leisurely are we spending our days in our temporary home?

How much comfort and luxury do we expect in the land in which we are only pilgrims?

Illustration: biblical sourdough bread ??

In instructions to the People of God in for the Passover

Paul Says “Your bragging is not good. You know the saying, “Just a little yeast makes the whole batch of dough rise.” 7 Take out all the old yeast so that you will be a new batch of dough without yeast, which you really are. For the Messiah , our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 So let us celebrate this feast, but not with the bread that has the old yeast—the yeast of sin and wickedness. Let us celebrate this feast with the bread that has no yeast—the bread of goodness and truth. By being simple, genuine, and unpretentious.(1 Cor 5: 6-8 NCV edited)

In instructions to the People of God in for the Lord’s Supper

Paul Says “ Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you are telling others about the Lord’s death until he comes. So a person who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in a way that is not worthy of it will be guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord. 28 Look into your own hearts before you eat the bread and drink the cup, 29 because all who eat the bread and drink the cup without recognizing the body eat and drink judgment against themselves. 30 If we carefully judge ourselves, we won’t be punished. 32 But when the Lord judges and punishes us, he does it to keep us from being condemned with the rest of the world. 1 Cor 11:26-32 (NCV & CEV)

We see that leaven can be a picture of our old ways or of ungodly influences that we still experience in our lives It is appropriate therefore that before we partake in this special meal we ask the Lord to give us grace to overcome those old influences in our lives that are not from him. This practice is common in many churches that allow for a reflection and repentance, And so we ask the Lord to help us with that reflection. As and object lesson lets go through our pockets wallets or purses to see if there is any thing we have forgotten about or if there is any thing there that we should throw away. Then we will use the same attitude of inquiry to examine our “spiritual pockets” to see if there are any bad habits or attitudes that we should get rid of.

ALL: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. PSALM 139:23-24

Everyone examines pocket or purse contents

Silent reflection

F. Hand washing

WATER

Instructions for washing each others hands

Of course the Bible invests water with multiple symbolic meanings and significance:

Rebirth, Baptism Cleansing and Nurture.

The symbolism we highlight here is that of service.

It was almost time for the Jewish Passover Feast. Jesus knew that it was time for him to leave this world and go back to the Father. He had always loved those who were his own in the world, and he loved them all the way to the end. ² Jesus and his followers were at the evening meal. The devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to turn against Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had given him power over everything and that he had come from God and was going back to God. ⁴ So during the meal Jesus stood up and took off his outer clothing. Taking a towel, he wrapped it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a bowl and began to wash the followers’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. . . .

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and sat down again. He asked, “Do you understand what I have just done for you? ¹³ You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that

is what I am. ¹⁴ If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I did this as an example so that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, a servant is not greater than his master. A messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you will be happy if you do them. **John 13:1-4, 12-17 (NCV)1**

Spontaneous prayer for attitude of servant-hood ???

G. Bitter Herbs

Maror

BITTERNESS

Pass around the bitter herbs

CHILDREN: "Why do we eat bitter herbs?"

ELDERS: "We eat bitter herbs to remind us of what life was like before the Lord delivered us." "The bitter herbs remind us what our lives would be like with out the grace of Jesus and the love of God.

Even for those of us who do not remember times of desperation before we met the Lord -- this is an opportunity to imagine how empty and bitter our lives would be with out the Lord's daily grace and love. ." As we chew these herbs let's reflect on what life might be like if God hadn't saved us?

Biblical uses of bitterness ??? Jesus on the cross ??

Pass around the unleavened bread

H. Telling the first Passover

remember the bondage remember the plagues remember the deliverance
pictures of the exodus????
Think of NT and Modern examples

I. Bread

Matzah

AFFLICTION / DELIVERANCE

(i) Hebrew Prayer?

פָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם • הַמּוֹצִיא לֶחֶם
מִן הָאָרֶץ :

Ba'ruch Ata Ha SHEM Elo'hey'nu Me'lech Ha'olam Ha'mot'zie Le'chem Min Ha'a'retz

ALL Blessed are You, LORD our G-d, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

CHILDREN: Why do we eat unleavened bread ?

ELDERS: "Eating unleavened bread reminds us that God delivered us quickly from bondage and affliction."

We have already considered briefly the significance of leaven.
The symbolism of Bread itself, like that of Light and Water is very rich.
The contrasting metaphors of affliction and deliverance / hunger and provision are combined here.
The fact that it is nourishment speaks of God's provision as Jesus said I am the Bread of heaven
That it is unleavened references the term "bread of affliction" Jesus said This is my body broken for you

J. Song of Deliverance

"Moshe and Miriam's Song" (horse and rider)

K. Telling the "second" Passover Jesus Fulfilment of the Pesach

Luke 22:7- 20--- Then the day for the feast of Unleavened Bread came, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us to eat." They said to him, "Where do you want us to prepare it?" He said to them, "Listen, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters, and tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' Then he will show you a large furnished room upstairs. Make preparations there." So they went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

The Lord's Supper

Now when the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table and the apostles joined him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And in the same way he took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (NET BIBLE)

Mark 14:22-26 While they were eating, he took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it. This is my body." : And after taking the cup and giving thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, that is poured out for many

L. The Wine

Wine is another great metaphor because it's symbolic range reaches both ways.

The resemblance of wine and blood has been used in the biblical metaphors related to judgement such as the "grapes of wrath" We also understand that the blood of Christ stands in place for our life's blood which was due to be shed an account of our being the enemies of God.

On the other hand Wine speaks of Joy, of the gladdening of the heart and of the Influence of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrew Prayer

בְּרִיךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָמוֹת פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן (אָמֵן)
Barukh atah Adonai Elohaynu melek ha-olam, borei p'riy ha-gafen. (Amein)

ALL Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who
creates the fruit of the vine. (Amen)

Verse on the crucifixion and its significance ????

CHILDREN: "Why did a lamb have to be sacrificed?"

ELDERS: "There is not a just man upon the earth, that does good and sins not. The soul that sins it shall die. But the Lord says when I see the blood I will pass over you." Now Messiah has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself."
(Eccl.7:20 Ezek.18:20 Ex.12:23 Hebrews 10:22/26)

M. Bread and Wine

1. ELDERS: "The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed, took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: This is my body which is broken for you, do this in remembrance of me."

Everyone takes bread again and eats for communion

2. ELDERS: "In the same way, after the supper he took the cup saying 'This is the new covenant in my blood; do this whenever you drink in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Everyone takes wine again and drinks for communion

"After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives".

N. {Hallel}

SONG: Closing PSALM

O. Looking Forward

Cup of Elijah

We incorporate one last observance in our celebration. This one involves looking forward. It will be in two parts one now just as we begin our meal and will conclude depending on whether Jesus comes back while we are eating at about 12:30 pm. If you need to leave before then don't worry if Jesus does come back you will probably know.

Jesus had said at his last supper "I tell you the truth, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." (Mark 14)

We are going to pour a cup but not drink it until the end so that if Jesus comes we will be ready to drink it with him.

The Old Testament closes with a promise that Elijah will come

"The LORD Almighty says, "The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. The arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw on that day . . . "But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture . . . "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents. [NLT Malichi 4: excerpts].

The end of Jesus earthy ministry also closed with the promise of his return

" When they were together for the last time they asked, "Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?"

Jesus answered "The Father sets those dates, and they are not for you to know. "You don't get to know the time. But what you will get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." It was not long after he said this that he was taken up into the sky while they were watching, and he disappeared into a cloud. ¹⁰As they were straining their eyes to see him, two white-robed men suddenly stood there among them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. And someday, just as you saw him go, he will return!" **Acts 1: 6-11 (MSG edited with NLT)**

We have looked back and in our eating and drinking have remembered Jesus as he told us to. With this last cup rather than looking back we will look forward. because Jesus said Let us pour a cup to be ready to drink it with Jesus if he comes back during our lunch time. As soon as the children come if they haven't seen Jesus coming we will begin our potluck lunch.

Children: Go and look for Elijah and or Jesus

While they are looking the rest of us can just reflect on the question "Are we ready for Jesus to come back?"

P. Pot Luck = Festival Meal

Everyone help selves and each other.

Q. Blessing God after the meal (Deut: ..) & the cup of expectancy

Children: Go and Look for Elijah or Jesus again

If he is not here:

Let us drink this final cup looking forward to the time when Jesus is once again here in his own body to drink it with us. As we look forward to the Lord's return when we will drink with him in the kingdom which is to come. Let us partake recognizing the mission that has been given to us to declare the Lord's coming and to make straight his paths.

ALL Jesus is Coming. Prepare the Way of the Lord

All drink

Final Grace:

ALL Now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you/ us all, evermore.