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# Preparing for Easter

## The Passover

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This coming Friday marks the start of the Jewish festival of the Passover, and Unleavened Bread.

Everything in the Passover was laden with meaning, and we find so much points to Jesus.

### **The Passover**

The story as it happened: Exodus 12:1-13

### **The Seder**

Everything is done in an order called the Seder. This was so important, because it drew people through the story, through the experience, into participation in the event itself.

As we move through this tonight, know that God is calling you into the moment of decision, to recognise God's Passover, His act of redemption in your life.

### **Lighting the candles**

Isaiah 9:2

### **Sanctifying the Wine: The First Cup**

*The Cup of Sanctification*

Exodus 6:6-7: "...and I will bring you out"

## **Washing the hands**

John 13:1-10 (ESV)

## **Dipping the vegetables**

Exodus 6:5 (ESV)

Often parsley or celery, to remember that they came out in springtime; into salt water or vinegar, to remember the great suffering of the people in Egypt. The salt water is to remind us of the tears.

## **Breaking the Matzah**

The traditional blessing goes something like: "This is the bread of brokenness which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. All who are hungry – let them come and eat. All who are needy, let them come and celebrate Passover with us."

## **Telling the Story: The Second Cup**

*The Cup of Deliverance*

Exodus 6:6-7: "...and I will deliver you"

John 1:29; Revelation 5:1-6

## **The Passover Meal Itself**

A blessing and another handwashing, followed by eating the various parts of the meal.

## **Eating Matzah**

Isaiah 53:4-5

Zechariah 12:10

## **Eating Bitter Herbs**

Exodus 1:13-14

## **Eating the Afikoman – a Christian Addition**

Matthew 26:26

John 6:51

## **Blessing After the Meal: The Third Cup**

*The Cup of Redemption*

Exodus 6:6-7: "...I will redeem you"

Matthew 26:27

## **Songs of Praise: The Fourth Cup**

*Cup of Restoration*

Exodus 6:6-7: "...I will take you to be my people"

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (ESV)

## **Conclusion**

"Next year in Jerusalem!"

Revelation 21:1-4

Jude 24-25

## Discussion

Please get a copy of the 4-day devotion for Monday to Thursday of the Easter week.

You can also get access to an electronic version on our website.

If you would like to hear more about the depth and power of Jesus' saving work at Easter, subscribe to the Riverlife 'Going Deeper' Podcast (in your favourite podcast app) for our Easter Special.