

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Passover begins a seven-day feast called the Feast of Unleavened Bread, starting the evening after Passover (*Exodus 12:15–20; Leviticus 23:6*).

God commanded His people to:

- Remove leaven from their homes
- Eat unleavened bread for seven days

“You shall eat unleavened bread... that you may remember the day you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.” — Deuteronomy 16:3

Unleavened bread first reminds us of leaving Egypt in haste, leaving old things behind, and remembering deliverance.

During this feast, leaven is removed (*Exodus 12:15–20*). Jesus used leaven (yeast) as a warning of influence (*Matthew 16:6*), reminding us to examine our lives and walk in sincerity and truth (*1 Corinthians 5:6–8*).

This week invites us to reflect on what influences shape our hearts and to walk in sincerity and truth.

Continuing the Week

You may take matzah home as a simple way to continue remembering.

Consider:

- Eating unleavened bread each day during the week as a tangible way to remember.
- Reading *Exodus 12–14* together
- Reflecting on where God has brought you from.

Redemption is not only history. It is personal.

Shavuot (The Feast of Weeks)

Shavuot occurs fifty days after Firstfruits, observed the day after the Sabbath during Unleavened Bread (*Leviticus 23:10–16*). The count begins that evening and continues daily to Shavuot.

It traditionally remembers when God gave His Word at Mount Sinai:

“The LORD came down on Mount Sinai...”
— *Exodus 19:20*

Centuries later, during this same feast, the Holy Spirit was given:

“When the day of Pentecost had fully come... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” — Acts 2:1–4

Through God’s Word and Spirit, His people are set apart (*Deuteronomy 7:6; 1 Peter 2:9*).

Continuing the Journey

Shavuot (Pentecost) invites us to remember that redemption leads to relationship.

Consider:

- Reading *Exodus 19–20* together
- Reading *Acts 2*
- Thanking God for His Word and His Spirit
- Reflecting on how He is shaping your life

Redemption was the beginning.
Relationship is the goal.

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“Great peace have those who love Your law.” —
Psalms 119:165

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PASSOVER

From Promise to Fulfillment

“Remember this day...”
— *Exodus 12:14*

Why This Night Matters

“When your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ you shall say...”
— Exodus 12:26–27

Passover is meant to be retold.

God commands us to remember and to teach the story of redemption to the next generation (*Deuteronomy 6:20–23*).

The Four Questions

The youngest asks, “Why is this night different?”

Passover invites questions because faith grows when redemption is remembered and explained.

The purpose:

- To remember.
- To explain.
- To pass faith to the next generation

(*Exodus 12:26–27*).

The Seder Plate

- Matzah (unleavened bread)— “They baked unleavened cakes... for it was not leavened.” (*Exodus 12:39*)
- Maror (Bitter Herbs) — “They made their lives bitter...” (*Exodus 1:14*)
- Charoset (apple and juice mix)— “In mortar and brick...” (*Exodus 1:14*)
- Karpas (Greens) — “Observe the month of Aviv...” (*Deuteronomy 16:1*)
- Zeroa (Shank Bone) — The Passover lamb (*Exodus 12:3–8*)
- Salt Water — The cry of Israel (*Exodus 2:23*) and the crossing of the sea (*Exodus 14:21–22*)

Each element helps tell the story of deliverance.

The Four Cups

(*Exodus 6:6–7*)

The cups reflect God’s four promises:

1. I will bring you out – Freedom.
2. I will rescue you – Deliverance.
3. I will redeem you – Redemption.
4. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God – Relationship.

Passover moves from slavery to a covenant relationship.

The Afikomen

A piece of matzah is broken, wrapped, hidden, and later brought back.

*“But He was **pierced** for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His **stripes** we are healed.”*
— Isaiah 53:5

*“They took the body of Jesus and **bound it in linen cloths** with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.”* — John 19:40

“A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again, a little while, and you will see Me.” — John 16:16

For many believers, the afikomen resembles Messiah — pierced, striped, wrapped, hidden, and brought back to complete redemption.

The Lord’s Appointed Times

(*Leviticus 23*)

“These are the appointed times of the LORD... holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.” — Leviticus 23:2

God’s appointed times reveal the story of redemption — from deliverance to restoration.

Sabbath

- Sabbath – Rest established at creation. (*Genesis 2:2–3; Hebrews 4:9*)

Rabbinic tradition describes Sabbath as “a taste of the world to come.”

Spring Feasts

- Passover — Redemption through the lamb (*Exodus 12; 1 Corinthians 5:7*)
- Unleavened Bread — Separation from false teaching & corruption (*Exodus 12:15; Matthew 16:6–12*)
- Firstfruits — Messiah, the first to rise immortal. (*Leviticus 23:10–11; 1 Corinthians 15:20*)
- Shavuot — The giving of the Law & the Holy Spirit (*Exodus 19–20; Acts 2:1–4*)

Through God’s Word and Spirit, His people are set apart (*Deuteronomy 7:6; 1 Peter 2:9*).

Fall Feasts

- Trumpets — A call to awaken— The King is coming. (*Leviticus 23:23–25; 1 Thessalonians 4:16*)
- Yom Kippur — National redemption fulfilled (*Leviticus 23:27–28; Romans 11:26–27; Zechariah 12:10*)
- Tabernacles — God dwelling with His people (*Leviticus 23:42–43; Zechariah 14:16; Revelation 21:3*)

These appointed times are shadows pointing to God’s redemptive plan (*Colossians 2:16–17*).