

Welcome to the Passover!

1. The lighting of the candles

(Light the candle and say).

Praised are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who is always with us. We thank you, Lord, for being with us and keeping us safe so that we can celebrate this special day together.



(Sing a song about light – such as *This little light of mine*)

2. The first cup of wine

(Fill the first cup of wine and Elijah's cup).

Today we celebrate and remember the story of how God brought our ancestors, the Israelites, out of slavery in Egypt and into freedom. We want to thank God that we are free and pray for our brothers and sisters in the world who are waiting to be free.

(Hold up the first cup and all say).

Praised are you, Lord our God, King of the universe. You have chosen us to be your people and you have blessed us. You have given us special days to remember your promises and holidays to celebrate your gift of freedom. Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who gives us life and cares for us. (All drink the first cup).

3. The washing of the hands in silence.

(Everyone washes their hands as it is custom for cleansing).



4. The first question and the eating of the matzah

Question 1: Why is this night different from other nights? Why do we eat Matzah?

Answer 1: It is the night when we remember that God saved our people from slavery in Egypt. We had to leave in a hurry so there was no time to cook with yeast and wait for dough to rise.

(All take two pieces of matzah and hold).

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe who gives us food from the earth. (All eat).

5. The second question and the eating of the bitter herbs

Question 2: Why do we eat the bitter herbs on this night? Why do we dip the bitter herbs into the haroset?

Answer 2: It is the night when we remember how sad and bitter it was for our ancestors to be slaves. The bitter herbs and the Haroset remind us of the hard work our ancestors had to do when they worked with the mortar and the bricks.

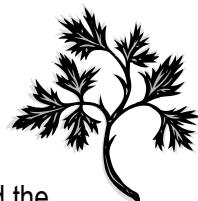


(All take the bitter herbs; dip them in the haroset and hold).

Praised are you, Lord our God, king of the universe who teaches us to trust in you (all eat).

6. The third question and the eating of the karpas

Question 3: Why do we dip the green vegetables into the salt water?



Answer 3: The green vegetables are a symbol of new life and the salt water is a symbol of the tears our ancestors cried while they were slaves. It reminds us that though our ancestors were sad while they were slaves, they also hoped in God's promise of a new life.

(All take the green vegetable and dip it in the salt water and hold).

Praised are you, Lord our God, King of the universe who created the fruit of the earth. (*All eat the Karpas*).

7. The fourth question

Question 4: On other nights we sit at the table to eat dinner, why on this night do we recline?

Answer 4: When our ancestors were slaves they had to eat quickly so that they could get back to work, but their masters could relax when they ate and take their time. Since our ancestors became free on this celebration it is right that we should eat this meal like free people.

8. The Exodus story

(*Tell the Exodus story – you could read from a bible story or you may choose a creative way such as using the children's drawings or a game of 'plague charades'?*)



9. The second cup.

(*All fill the second cup*).

God has done so much for us. On the Passover we remember that we all belong to God's family. It was not only our ancestors whom God saved from Egypt – He has freed us too! He has brought us from slavery to freedom, from sadness to joy and from darkness to light.

(*Hallelujah / thank you / praise you song*).

(*All raise the cup*).

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has brought us from slavery to freedom, from sadness to joy and from darkness to light! (*All drink the second cup*). (*Dinner?*)

10. Finding (then eating) the afikoman (the hidden matzah).

(*All the children hunt for the matzah, when it is found it is shared and eaten*)

11. Elijahs cup and the fourth cup.

On the table is a cup of wine that no body has touched, it is for a special guest. His name is Elijah the prophet. He was a man of great courage who fought for what is right. In the bible it says that he was taken to heaven in a fiery chariot and that one day he will return to announce the arrival of a time when all people will live in peace. Let's open the door and see if Elijah is here...

(*All fill the fourth cup of wine, is Elijah here?*)

Praised are you, Lord our God, King of the universe who brought us out of slavery, who delivered us from bondage, who redeemed us and made us your people. (*All drink*).

12. Blessing

As we come to the end of our Passover meal we pray that we may celebrate it again together next year in joy, in freedom and in peace.



**Next year in
Jerusalem! Amen.**

Alleluia!