

# Christ, the Passover Lesson

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## Preparation

Before teaching the lesson, make the following preparations for the table(s).

- For each person, fill four communion cups (or tiny glasses) with red grape juice.
- Provide small bowls of salt water. You could position these between people, one for every two people.
- Provide a small glass of water for each person (in case the horseradish overpowers them).
- Prepare a Seder Plate for each person.
  - ▶ Parsley sprig
  - ▶ Several pieces of unleavened bread
  - ▶ 1 tablespoon of grated horseradish
  - ▶ 2 tablespoons of sweet paste (see recipe)
- Provide a small spoon for each person.
- Make a copy of The Haggadah (2 pages) for each person. Make sure there is room on the table for them to refer to this during the lesson.

## Sweet Paste Recipe

In a large bowl, mix the following:

- 2 large apples, shredded or finely diced
- 1 cup walnuts, ground
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp honey (more if you like)
- 1/2 cup grape juice

This recipe should make enough for 8 seder plates. The consistency should be a thick paste. Add more walnuts or apples if it is too thin. Add more grape juice if it is too thick.

## Instructions

- Once you have set the table, explain that you will be following a scripted lesson about Christ our Passover. Explain that everyone will eat the items on the plates when the script specifies.
- A leader (in the family or group) will say the **Leader** portions of the telling.
- Everyone at the table(s) will say the **People** portions of the telling.

## Terms

**Seder:** Seder means “order.” People refer to the Passover meal as the Seder because they have a lesson and eat the items in a specific order. The Seder is a teaching tool.

**Haggadah:** Haggadah means “telling.” There are many variations of the Haggadah though the basic steps have remained unchanged for centuries. The variation in this document emphasizes Christ.

## Picture of Christ

<i>Element</i>	<i>Traditional Meaning</i>	<i>Pictures Christ</i>
grape juice (wine)	joy of freedom	<a href="#">Luke 22:20</a>
salt water	bitter tears	<a href="#">Rev 21:3-4</a>
parsley sprigs	backbreaking work	<a href="#">John 19:29</a>
unleavened bread, pierced and striped	priests, Levites, Israelites	<a href="#">Isa 53:5</a> <a href="#">John 19:34</a>
horseradish (bitter herbs)	bitterness of slavery	<a href="#">1Cor 7:21-23</a>
sweet paste	mortar for brick	<a href="#">Heb 9:12</a> , <a href="#">Eph 1:7</a>

Note: Some people include a piece of roasted meat at the meal, but they do not eat it.

roasted meat	sacrificial lamb	<a href="#">John 1:29</a> <a href="#">John 19:33</a>
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# The Haggadah

**Leader:** We praise You, Lord Our God, creator and ruler of the universe. We prepare for this lesson by removing the leaven of sin in our lives. We pause for a moment to let each of us silently confess to You. [Pause 1 minute.]

**People:** If we confess our sins, He forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. [1John 1:9]

**Leader:** We gather to celebrate how God brought us out of the bondage of the world. With four cups from the fruit of the vine, we recall God's promises. [Hold up first cup.] We take the first cup and thank You for Your promise of **freedom** from the bondage of the world.

**People:** You are the Lord. You will free us from the yoke of the world. [John 8:36]

**Leader:** Let us drink the **first cup**.

**People:** [All drink the first cup.]

**Leader:** [Hold up parsley sprig.] This sprig of **parsley** represents life that the Lord our God created. God's goodness fills us with joy as He brings good things into our lives. As good as God intended life to be, it is often mixed with tears. Our bowl of **salt water** represents the tears. Let us never forget our struggle for freedom begins in suffering. Life is sometimes filled with tears.

**People:** Blessed are You O Lord our God, Creator of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

**Leader:** Let us dip the spring into the salt water, then eat it. [Psa 80:5]

**People:** [All dip, then eat parsley sprig.]

**Leader:** When Moses asked Pharaoh to let God's people go, Pharaoh refused. God sent ten plagues on Egypt so they would know that the Lord is God. [Hold up second cup.] This second cup represents **deliverance**.

**Leader:** With the **second cup**, we celebrate how God has delivered us. He brought us from bondage to freedom. He brought us from sorrow to joy, from darkness to light, and from slavery to redemption.

**People:** We praise you O Lord, our God, our Deliverer. [Psa 18:1-3]

**Leader:** Let us drink the **second cup**.

**People:** [All drink the second cup.]

**Leader:** [Hold up piece of unleavened bread.] We eat unleavened bread to remember how our sinless Savior endured the stripes and piercing to pay for our sins. [Isa 53:5] Let us offer a blessing for the bread.

**People:** We praise You, O Lord, our God. Thank You for allowing Your Son to serve as our Sacrifice, taking our sins upon Himself. We acknowledge what He did and accept Him as our Savior and Lord.

**Leader:** Let us eat the unleavened bread.

**People:** [All eat a small piece of unleavened bread.]

**Leader:** With **bitter herbs**, we remember our slavery to sin and the bondage of the world. [Hold up a small spoon of horseradish.] As we eat the bitter herb, it brings tears of compassion to our eyes for those who have suffered. We weep for those who are still enslaved because they have not accepted the deliverance that our gracious God offers. [1Cor 7:21-23]

**People:** We praise You God for the deliverance You offer. We weep for those who do not yet know Christ as Savior.

**Leader:** Let us eat the bitter herb.

**People:** [All eat a SMALL taste of the horseradish.]  
Note: Drink some water if the horseradish is overpowering.

**Leader:** In the days of the Jerusalem Temple, the Rabbi ate a sandwich of the Passover lamb with bitter herbs on unleavened bread. Since the temple no longer stands, we use the sweet paste in place of the lamb. The **sweet paste** reminds us that we have hope in our Lord. [Hold up a spoon of the sweet paste.] We rejoice in the sweetness He brings into our bitter circumstances.

**Leader:** Let's make the sandwich. On a piece of unleavened bread, place a small portion of the bitter herb. Then generously spread the sweet paste over the bitter herb. Let us eat the sandwich.

**People:** [All eat the sandwich of unleavened bread, horseradish, and sweet paste.]

**Leader:** Jesus said if we continue in His Word, that we are truly His disciples. We will know the truth and truth will make us free. [John 8:31-34].

**People:** Praises to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. [Rev 1:5-6]

**Leader:** Jesus has fulfilled the Scripture announcing the coming of a Messiah. [Luke 4:17-21]

**People:** Blessed is He who has come in the name of the Lord!

**Leader:** We thank you, O God, for giving us Your only Son. He suffered, died to pay for our sins, and rose again. How great is Your love! [Hold up a piece of broken, **unleavened bread**.] The broken bread reminds us of the broken body of our Lord Jesus Christ, broken for us. As you eat the bread, if you have Christ as Savior, remember that He died for you to free you from the bondage of sin. [Col 1:21-22]

**People:** [All eat a piece of unleavened bread.]

**Leader:** [Hold up **third cup**.] This cup reminds us of the spilled blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. When you accept Him as your Savior, His blood washes away your sins. [1John 1:7] As you drink this, if you are a Christ-follower, remember that Christ has **reconciled** you to Himself. [Mat 26:28]

**People:** [All drink the **third cup**.]

**Leader:** We rejoice with thanksgiving. God's love humbles us. [Hold up **fourth cup**.] We raise this cup in thanksgiving for God's enduring **grace** and love to us. Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, who has adopted us as Your children. [Eph 1:7]

**People:** Lord in heaven. You are our Father. Holy is Your name. Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We humbly ask that You provide for our needs. We depend on You to deliver us from evil. We acknowledge You as the only all-powerful, ever-present, all-knowing God. We love You. Amen.

**Leader:** Let us drink the **fourth cup** with thanks.

**People:** [All drink the fourth cup.]

**Note:** Before dismissing the group, you may wish to do one or more of the following:

- Sing a few praise songs.
- Break into groups of two or three to pray.
- Offer to have a one-on-one conversation with anyone who wants to learn more about becoming a Christ-follower.