

# Easter at *home*

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## Passover Meal Insights:

**Read Exodus 13:1–10** to learn more about the Passover (also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread).

In the Old Testament, God instructed the Children of Israel, through Moses, to commemorate their quick departure from captivity with the annual festival called Passover. It was one of the ways God designed knowledge of His power and faith to pass from one generation to the next. According to Jewish tradition, the celebration began with a week of activities which culminated in the Passover meal. This meal featured several symbolic items designed to allow family units to preserve stories of God's power and provision through the generations.

This was the meal Jesus shared with His disciples on the night He was betrayed to be tried and crucified. Jesus chose a meal, a setting of intimacy and warmth. A setting reserved for close family or honored guests. Today, as we consider the meal we share on Easter, which commemorates His resurrection from the dead, think of yourself as the honored guest of Jesus. If you have a personal relationship with Jesus, then consider that you are sharing the meal with family.

During the traditional Passover meal, the youngest child would ask four questions to which the others would respond in unison. This year we invite you to allow the children (or the youngest at your meal) to ask the following questions and encourage everyone to engage in storytelling. Bible verses have been provided as answers to the questions which can be read by adults at the meal. Encourage all who want to share stories to do so.

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## Discussion Questions and Responses

**Question:** The first Passover meal was eaten the night before the exodus from Egypt. Egypt was a place of bondage and slavery, but God set the Israelites free. What has God freed us from today?

**Answer:** “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free” (John 8:34–36, NLT).

**Story:** Tell stories about what freedom means to you and why you are thankful for freedom.

**Question:** God provided the food in the Garden of Eden. He provided the way of escape for the Children of Israel in Egypt. What has God provided for us today?

**Answer:** “For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake” (1 Peter 1:18–20, NLT).

**Answer:** “Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure” (Ephesians 1:4–5, NLT).

**Story:** Tell stories about what it means to have the sin debt canceled and to be redeemed into God’s family. Are there members of your family or other people you know who have been adopted? What does it mean to have a new family? In your own words, compare adoption as we know it to being adopted as God’s children. What rights and responsibilities do we have as children of God?

**Question:** Egypt symbolizes the bondage of sin for us today. The Children of Israel were spared from the tenth plague because God provided a way of escape. How can we escape the bondage of sin?

**Answer:** “If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved” (Romans 10:9–10, NLT).

**Story:** Tell stories about when you made the decision to follow Christ and what salvation means to you.