

# GODNESS GUIDE FAMILY

## W E L C O M E !

I'm so glad you're reading this! I hope this Goodness Family Guide to The Passover blesses you and your little ones.

The Passover is, in my opinion, one of the most important biblical events, celebrations and themes, but it isn't generally celebrated by Christian families. And that's a shame! There is *so much* spiritual richness to be gleaned from this celebration.

I've only just begun to scratch the surface of observing The Passover in my own home. So this is *by no means* a comprehensive (or even thorough) guide. But it is an attempt to plug myself and my children into the metanarrative of the People of God that spans millennia and will continue on throughout eternity.

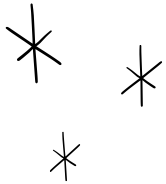
Here's a quick rundown of what you can expect in the pages to follow:

1. A VERY brief overview of The Passover for you, the parent.
2. Recommended Resources
  - a. Books to put on hold at your local library for next week. (Or, if you're feeling crazy, you can purchase them at the links\* provided.)
  - b. A few video links to watch with your kids that explain the history and significance of The Passover (great for your visual learner!)
  - c. Recipes to try as you prepare for your Seder.
  - d. Links to resources that explain the Seder meal and walk you through best practices for a sacred meal with wiggly little ones.
3. A "Circle time" guide to guide you through what and how to read with your children, and helpful questions to ask while you're together.
4. A timeline of the day.

Please share photos of your journey with us! Tag me on Instagram (@katie.noble) so we can see how other families are enjoying this sacred feast!

\*Some of the links provided are affiliate links, which means I make a small commission of the sale price.





# WHY OBSERVE THE PASSOVER?

## A PEP TALK FOR THE SCEPTIC PARENT

The Passover is a *major* celebration in the spiritual heritage of Christians. So why don't we celebrate it? There are plenty of reasons, ranging from mere ignorance to fear of being "too Jewish" (?? Jesus was *all the way* Jewish, so maybe let's check that one at the door). And while it's true that Jesus implemented Holy Communion as a representation of his fulfillment of the Passover sacrifice, observing The Passover plugs us into our centuries-old spiritual family by remembering God's faithfulness and forgiveness all the way through, and that never loses its value.

Passover is a celebration of the freedom of Israel from oppressive Egyptian rule.

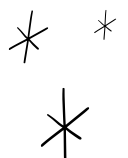
**Read Exodus 11-12 for the full narrative.** God commands Israel to prepare particular symbolic foods and engage in specific rituals *every year* as not to forget God's miraculous rescue.

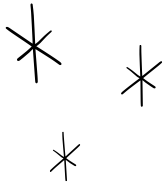
This tradition was observed by Jesus and his disciples annually. The Last Supper ([Luke 22](#)) was actually a Seder meal. The wine offered by Jesus as a symbol of the blood he was about to shed as The Lamb of God ([John 1:29](#)) was a cup of wine used to remember God's salvation of Israel. The bread broken to symbolize his broken body was matzah.

Passover is celebrated with a traditional meal called a Seder. This is a *beautiful*, symbolic meal that is observed in 15 movements. You can find a simple explanation of the Seder [here](#).

A meal this intricate will inevitably be too much for little ones. I've included a few links on the resources page to get ideas about how to modify for your current family culture.

The Passover has enormous formational potential for us and for our children. You don't have to do it perfectly, or fully, or even well. But showing up the connect with God through tradition and community and food and prayer will be blessing enough.





## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### BOOKS

- [The Jesus Storybook Bible](#) by Sally Lloyd-Jones
- [Passover: A Celebration of Freedom](#) by Bonnie Bader
- [Stone Soup with Matzoh Balls](#) by Linda Glaser
- [Pippa's Passover Plate](#) by Vivian Kirkfield
- [More Than Enough](#) by April Halprin Wayland
- [The Passover Mouse](#) by Joy Nelkin Weider
- [The Gospel in the Passover & The Messiah in the Passover](#) from Chosen People Ministries (for adults)

### VIDEOS

- [Sacrifice and Atonement](#) by The Bible Project
  - *A helpful explanation of sacrifices and a connection to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.*
- [The Book of Exodus Summary](#) by The Bible Project
  - *Gives context to the first Passover and explains God's commandment to remember Passover annually*
- [God's Story: Passover](#) by Crossroads Kids Club
- [What is Passover?](#) by Chabad.org
  - The story of the Passover from the Jewish perspective

### RECIPES

- I made the entire Seder meal from [Julia Turshen's Now and Again](#) and it was *delicious*.
- Bon Appetit's Molly Baz has [this great recipe for Matzo Ball Soup](#)
  - ([Here's a vegetarian option](#))
- [Unleavened Bread](#) (Matzah)
  - To *embody* the practice of baking bread without giving it time to rise helps us literally practice the Exodus narrative. This is such a good teaching opportunity for little ones who learn with their bodies!

### HELPFUL LINKS

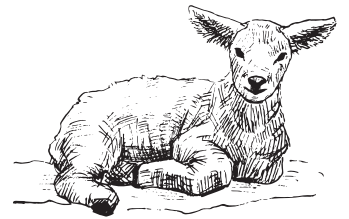
- [This step-by-step Guide to Seder with children](#)
- [A Brief Overview of the 15 Steps of the Seder](#)
- [Passover Seder for Young Children](#)
- [Passover Seders with Kids](#)

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## PASSOVER CIRCLE TIME

### READ 'GOD TO THE RESCUE' FROM THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

EMPHASIZE THE PHRASES 'BEST LAMB' AND 'PASSOVER'. ASK THEM IF THEY'VE HEARD JESUS CALLED 'THE LAMB OF GOD' BEFORE? HAVE THEM NARRATE WHAT/WHO PASSED OVER THE HOMES OF THE ISRAELITES.



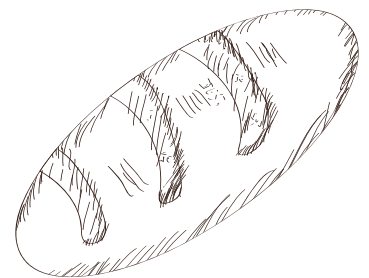
### READ 'HEAVEN BREAKS THROUGH' FROM THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN JESUS AS 'GOD'S BEST LAMB' - THE PERFECT SACRIFICE AND THE INITIATION OF GOD'S ULTIMATE RESCUE OF HIS PEOPLE FROM SLAVERY TO SIN.



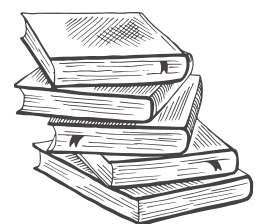
### READ 'THE SERVANT KING' FROM THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

THIS STORY IS THE CULMINATION OF THE PREVIOUS TWO. USE THIS TO SET UP CONVERSATIONS ABOUT JESUS' IDENTITY AND THE PASSOVER SEDER.



### READ PASSOVER BOOKS

FROM THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION YOU'VE ESTABLISHED, YOU CAN START TALKING ABOUT HOW WE REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER AS CHRISTIANS! READ THESE BOOKS AND USE THEM AS A LAUNCH POINT TO START MAKING YOUR SEDER FOODS!

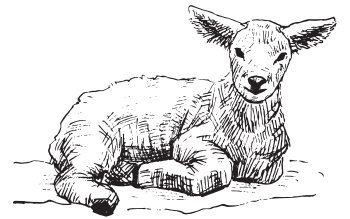


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## PASSOVER CELEBRATION TIMELINE

### PREPARE HEARTS & HOME

- EXPLAIN TO YOUR CHILDREN THAT TODAY IS A SPECIAL DAY. RUN THEM THROUGH THE EVENTS OF THE DAY AND ASK FOR THEIR HELP PREPARING
- CLEAN THE HOUSE, PREPARING FOR THE FEAST



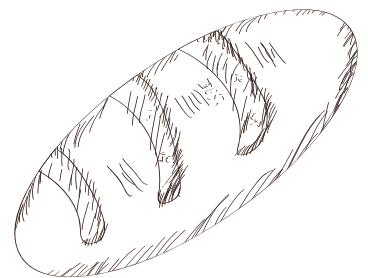
### CIRCLE TIME

- READ STORIES AND BOOKS
- WATCH VIDEOS
- HAVE CONVERSATIONS, ASK & ANSWER QUESTIONS
- TALK ABOUT THE SEDER



### PREPARE FOR SEDER

- BEGIN FOOD PREPARATIONS
- WEAVE CONVERSATION THROUGHOUT THIS TIME FROM WHAT YOU READ AND DISCUSSED DURING CIRCLE TIME



### FEAST!

- OBSERVE THE SEDER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS
- ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLAIN WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED AND DONE THROUGHOUT THE DAY

