

Meal Script Page 2

KARPAS, HAROSET AND SALT WATER

YOUNGEST CHILD: Why do we dip herbs twice on this night?

LEADER: On all other days we do not usually dip one food into another, but today we dip them twice. On this day we dip our Karpas in salt water and in sticky Haroset. We dip twice into Haroset to remind us how hard the Israelite slaves worked in Egypt. The Haroset looks like the clay that the slaves used to make bricks for Pharaoh's buildings. We also dip our Karpas into salt water. The salty water reminds us of the tears of the Jewish slaves and the salt of the water of the Red Sea through which they escaped.

The Karpas itself reminds us of the hyssop with which the Israelites painted their doors with the blood of the lamb. Take a piece of matzo and dip into horseradish and then into the haroset two times and eat. Notice the bitter and sweet. *(Do so)*
Take Karpas and dip it into the haroset and then two times into the salt water and eat. Notice the saltiness and sweetness. *(Do so)*.

Let us give thanks to God for being with us in hard times - He promises to never leave us. We say:

ALL: Blessed are You, Lord our God,
King of the Universe, Who even in the most bitter things in life brings the sweetness of hope.

YOUNGEST CHILD: Why do we eat our meal reclining on this night?

LEADER: On all other days we eat sitting up straight, but today we can lean back. The first Passover was celebrated by people who were slaves, so they couldn't relax. The Israelites were told to eat the Passover quickly, with their coats ready, their walking sticks in their hands, their sandals on their feet, ready to leave the bondage of Egypt.

LEADER: The story of Passover is a story of miracles, a story of redemption, a story of the mighty power of God to overcome evil. Moses went to Pharaoh with God's command, "Let my people go!" But God warned Moses that Pharaoh wouldn't easily agree. The Lord sent plagues, one by one, but with each plague, Pharaoh refused and made his heart harder against God. The final plague was the most awful. The death of the first born in every house. *(Point to the Lamb)*. The Israelites had been told to kill and prepare a lamb to eat. Those who listened to God took some of the blood to mark their houses and death passed over their houses. An innocent life taken protected them.

Jesus is called the 'Lamb of God' in the Bible. He gave up his life to protect us. He willingly allowed his blood to be shed so that even though we experience death, we can have eternal life. At the Last Supper, Jesus took a cup, and said the wine was his blood - marking a very special new promise between God and humanity - God would forgive those who believed what Jesus was saying. Death would pass over us.

Jesus showed he had the power to give eternal life by rising from the dead. He rose from being wrapped in a tomb. Let's see who can find the Afikomen - the wrapped bread we hid earlier. *(Kids hunt and give afikomen to leader)*

LEADER: Remember, this piece of matzo, made without yeast, is a symbol of Jesus. It reminds us that even though Jesus was hidden in a tomb - there was more life and joy to come! Just as the bread has no yeast, he had no sin, Let's break and share it now just as Jesus did at the last supper for his friends. *(Break and share the bread)*

LEADER: Lets finish telling the story with our fourth and final toast. Then we will eat together.

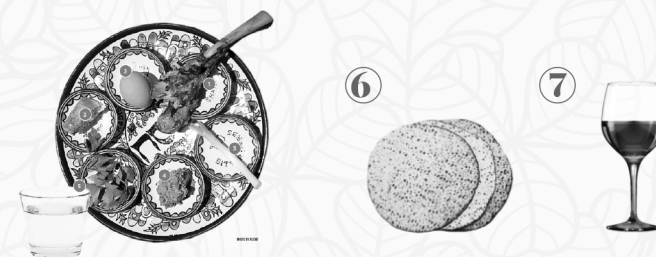
ALL: Blessed are You, Lord our God, Mighty rescuer, King of the Universe, who brings forth the bread of life from the earth. Thank you for Easter! Amen.

Easter Meal

Maundy Thursday

Shopping List

1. Lamb Shank & bone (Z'roa): Symbol of the Passover sacrifice
2. An Egg (Beitzah): Hard boiled eggs show the tougher it got for Israel, the tougher they got.
3. Bitter Herbs (Maror): Horseradish and Romaine lettuce are a good choice.
4. Haroset: A mixture of Apple, Nuts and Wine. You can use apple sauce as an alternative.
5. Vegetable (Karpas) and salt water: Parsley, celery and/or boiled potatoes can be used to dip into a bowl of salted water.
6. Matza is the unleavened bread of the meal. Flat bread or wraps could be used. If you can source Matza it's worth it.
7. Wine - Enough for four cups to be used for toasts. Grape juice, squash or sparkling juice can be used for younger ones or as an alternative.



Other Easter Activities

Do join us for our Easter walk and Kite fly at 2pm on Good Friday and for our baptismal service on Easter Sunday, 10:30pm at John Hampden School. Our website cornerstonethame.org.uk has more details including where to meet for the walk. Happy Easter Week!

www.cornerstonethame.org.uk

An Easter Meal

BEFORE THE MEAL: PREPARATIONS

We have provided a loose script to lead you through the meal. It would be good to read it through in advance; then you can have everything you need to hand. Normally the youngest child asks the questions - you can let other children share if you like!

Some families or groups like to dress up for their meal to show it's a special time. You can either go full fancy dress (think nativity type clothes) or you can just encourage everyone to dress smart. If you can eat whilst reclining on the floor with cushions on a cloth do so - it changes the feel of the meal!

WHAT IS AN EASTER MEAL?

Whilst we are borrowing items and traditions from Judaism and Early Christianity, this is very much an Easter meal and not a full recreation of Passover, the last Supper or Sabbath meals. The meal aims to connect the story of God's people leaving slavery in Egypt, as told in the Bible in Exodus, to the story of Jesus at Easter and his setting us free to live for him in a new place and a new way.

JOIN WITH OTHERS (IF YOU WISH TO)

At 6:30pm we would love to encourage you to join in with a quick toast over Zoom. You can do this before, during or after your meal - we know many will be timing their meal around work, parents or children. The Zoom link is on the first page.

The Meal Script

FIRST: A woman (if present) lights a central candle.

LEADER: Jewish people have celebrated the special Passover meal for thousands of years. When they celebrate this meal they remember that God saved them from slavery in Egypt and that death passed by their homes. A lamb was sacrificed to set them free.

LEADER: On the night before He died, Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Jewish Passover. First Corinthians 5:7 says "Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us." In our meal tonight we will use all our senses as we experience the greatest love story of all; God's love for the world.

Four times in this meal we will make a toast to thank God for his provision. Let's say our first toast now.

FIRST CUP OF BLESSING

HELPER: (Pours into everyone's cups.)

READER: We pour from one pitcher to show that we have been brought together as one family tonight. (When all are ready raise your glasses and say)

ALL: **Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.**
(Drink from your cup)

BREAKING OF THE MATZO

YOUNGEST CHILD: Why do we eat only bread without yeast on this night?

LEADER: On this day we eat bread without yeast, unleavened bread, to remind us of the time the Israelite people were in slavery in Egypt. On the night when they left, they had no time to put yeast in their bread and let it rise. They took the raw dough on their journey and baked it in the hot desert sun into hard crackers called matzo. (moh-tzoh).



HELPER: *Break a piece of Matzo in half and wrap it in a clean cloth*

LEADER: Jesus also took bread and broke it at a meal. He told his disciples that like this bread, his body would be broken, wrapped and buried in a tomb to set people free to love God and to open a way from sin to new life. We will wrap and save some bread for after the meal. Let's call this the 'Afikomen' (ah-fi-KO-men). Children close your eyes - we are going to hide it somewhere in the house! Later you will try to find it!

(Adult hides wrapped bread whilst children close eyes.)

The Afikomen, hidden just for a little while, will help us to end our meal with celebration. Let us bless the bread with no yeast - a sign of Jesus who had no sin. Let us say our second toast together!

ALL: **Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who gives us bread and is the bread of life.**
(Drink and Pass bread around - but don't eat it!!)

YOUNGEST CHILD: Why do we eat bitter herbs on this night?

LEADER: On all other days we eat all kinds of vegetables, but tonight we eat bitter ones, to remember how bitter life was for the Israelites in Egypt when they were slaves. *(Hold up the horseradish)* Let's scoop some horseradish onto a piece of matzo and taste the bitterness of it. *(do so)*

We too can become trapped in lives that cause hurt to God, to our planet and to each other. Let's name some of those things now. *(do so)* Tonight we remember that just as God saved the israelites from bitter lives in Egypt, we too are saved and set free from the bitter power of sin to live in a new way of joy and life. Let's thank God with our third toast:

ALL: **Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who gives us forgiveness and hope.** *(Drink)*