

# ***Suggested Simplified Family Passover***

*(feel free to simplify more)*

- Everyone washes their hands.
- Leader (Father) takes the 1<sup>st</sup> cup of grape juice and presents a prayer of Thanksgiving to God.
- **1<sup>st</sup> cup of grape juice drunk** (traditionally red grape juice mixed with water; it was at this point Jesus washes disciples' feet)
- Leader **dips herbs** in saltwater (or vinegar), eats them, and gives to others
- While eating bitter herbs, son asks why only certain types of food are eaten on Passover night
- Father answers with a long explanation of Jewish history (pre-Abram to giving of the Law)
  - Creation (4100BC); Fall; Flood (2500BC); Abram (2090BC); Isaac; Jacob & Esau; Jacob has 12 sons; Joseph in Egypt (1884BC); Slavery; Moses; Passover (1445BC; Ex. 12)
- Leader explains the importance of each element (speaking as if delivered from Egypt)
  - **Grape Juice.** Not required by God as part of Moses' Passover but required later by Jews as an expression of joy on the Passover night. Has more meaning to us because of Christ's words about it during last supper
  - **Bitter herbs.** Egyptians made bitter the lives of our fathers. As Christians, we see the bitterness of our slavery to sin. What can end this slavery?
  - **Unleavened Bread.** Sign of transition from old to the new – starting a new day (new lump of dough).
    - Old leaven = symbol of corruption & death; old slave life in Egypt; banished from homes (De. 16:9; Ex. 12:33, 39; 1 Co. 5:7)
    - For Christians a symbol of starting a new life in Christ, and Christ's body being opened for us.
  - **Lamb.** Perfect, spotless – Older than 8 days, but younger than 1 year.
    - Most killed on Good Friday at same time Christ dies on the cross
    - Roasted on a spit and no part could touch the oven (defiled); that part would have to be cut away. (Also, not "sodden with water" for the same reason)
    - No bone to be broken on the lamb during preparation or eating. This is a picture of no bone broken on Jesus.
    - It takes perfect blood to cover up sin (hide the sinner). By faith the blood is applied; trusting it to cover up all wrong.
- Sing: "Nothing but the Blood" (Traditionally 1<sup>st</sup> part of Hallel sung from Ps. 113:1-114:8)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> cup of juice drunk.**
- Continue **eating herbs**, but now with **unleavened bread**. Probably when Judas dipped after Jesus and left, not receiving the lamb)
- Finally **eat the Lamb** – all of it required to be eaten
- Now an *Aphikomen* (after-dish) of **unleavened cake** is eaten
  - Jesus relates this to His body being broken for us
- After meal prayer
- **3<sup>rd</sup> cup of juice drunk (cup of blessing).**
  - Jesus speaks of Himself blessing the whole world with His blood; Remember Christ
- Sing: "Hallelujah, What a Savior" (traditionally 2<sup>nd</sup> half of "Hallel" sung – Ps. 115:1-118:29)
  - Sung over a **4<sup>th</sup> cup of juice**
- Optional – End with another song
  - Christ and disciples leave for the Mount of Olives