

PREPARING FOR HOME PASSOVER

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INTRODUCTION

Preparing for Passover involves three steps: cleaning the home of leaven, preparing and eating a traditional meal guided by a booklet (“Haggadah”) and continuing to refrain from eating any yeast (a symbol of sin) for the week of unleavened bread.

Passover is the evening meal, and unleavened bread week begins with the Passover meal and ends after 7 days.

Call or email the MBF office if questions arise while preparing to celebrate the Feast. All needed guides and items are on the [Feast Page](#) of our website.

PREPARATION

Clean the house

There is a commandment to **clean the leavened items out of your house**. Leaven is often disputed, but it definitely includes all items that contain yeast. You may or may not include grain products, baking soda and yeast extract which are argued over, but the spirit of this is to look for yeast in your pantry items, refrigerator, cabinets and freezer and either pitch them, give them to others, or set them outside the house before the evening of Passover and keep them outside for the week of unleavened bread.

Shopping List: Lamb, Bitter Herbs and Matzah (and Juice)

Some have **lamb** with Passover (both Jewish and non-Jewish are divided on this), others don't. The don'ts refrain because we cannot have a sacrificial lamb without the Temple being present. Others do, because, although it is not a sacrificial lamb, the Exodus account commands that three items are commanded to have at the meal: Lamb, something bitter and unleavened bread (matzah) for symbolic remembrance purposes. If not lamb, substitute what you like, but our Haggadah (Guidebook) uses and mentions the lamb.

Parsley, horseradish, saltwater, applesauce, matzah (there is even gluten free at stores if needed), good **grape juice or wine** (enough for 4 cups for each person during the meal),

Get enough matzah for every family member to eat a bit each day (a commandment) for the following week of unleavened bread and when you are out at work that week or anywhere else, you are to not eat any yeasted products.

Set the table beforehand. On it you need:

- ◆ **Two candles and matches** to light, typically at the woman's seat
- ◆ a **large dinner plate**,
- ◆ a **wine glass** for everyone,

- ◆ a **single empty bowl** for and a **carafe of water** for hand washing,
- ◆ a personal **Haggadah** booklet to follow along for each person. This can be downloaded from the “Feasts” page on our website: www.marionbible.com.
- ◆ A small **bowl of saltwater** for each person
- ◆ Some **parsley** for each person
- ◆ Some **horseradish** for each person
- ◆ Some **applesauce** for each person
- ◆ A **central plate of matzah** and three pieces set aside:
 - Three pieces of **unbroken** matzah are placed in a **cloth or bag**, so one larger bag or cloth is needed
 - One of them is broken and placed in a **smaller cloth** and hidden during the meal, so a cloth or small bag is needed
- ◆ You can plate your main dinner and bring it to this rather loaded table, or have the dinner items on the table too, including the meat (lamb, if served)

Prepare a nice meal and dress up

In the middle of the seder, a dinner will be eaten, so make it special and dress nicely to celebrate an important event.

Music (optional)

Prepare some nice Hebraic music. You could just play the Maccabeats or Marty Goetz on YouTube or a streaming music service, if you wish, during the meal portion of the seder.

During the singing of songs in the Haggadah, you can simply read them as poems if you do not know the tunes, but you could also listen ahead of time to our rendition of the songs on the [Feast Page](#) of our website and sing them acapella.

THE WEEK OF UNLEAVENED BREAD AND BEGIN COUNTING THE OMER

Do not consider the Passover “over” after the meal.

There is an equally important commandment to **eat a bit of matzah each day** and **refrain from eating any leavened products** for 1 week. Consider your call to an obedient and sinless life during that week.

Download our guide to **Counting the Omer** on the [Feast Page](#) of our website, which counts the days to Pentecost as commanded. During this time, our guide marks biblical events that occur in the ministry of Messiah.