

LEADER'S NOTES for PASSOVER MEAL

This meal is aimed at re-enacting the Last Supper; to improve the awareness of the events of that Passover Night before Christ died.

My main sources were:

- **EXODUS 1-12.**
- **NEW TESTAMENT ACCOUNTS** in MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN, 1 CORINTHIANS 11.
- **A CURRENT COPY OF THE JEWISH PASSOVER.**
- An article on 'Christian Passover'. While not the purpose of our meal, the article was most helpful in preparing the food.

Even with this research material, much is speculative. Basically, with the background reading of the ceremony, culture, geography and historical events, I imagined or reasoned what was likely to have happened with 13 men at a Passover Meal in the upstairs room of someones home in Jerusalem in circa 30AD!

Some helpful points.

- a) Allow yourself about 2hours for the meal, plus time "in the Garden". Don't race the meal. Let it be an experience to be remembered.
- b) Keep the group to approximately the same number as the original meal. In fact, be as faithful to the setting as possible. We sat on cushions each side of a long tressel table set close to the floor (approx 20cm), and sang choruses based on the Hallel Psalms. NOTE: People are likely to be uncomfortable about footwashing. If so, get them to wash each others hands instead.
- c) Don't have a stand-in "Jesus" (or Judas). Have a HOST who leads, but let the people serve one another.
- d) Have a "youngest child". It is quite possible that a young boy named Mark (who went on to be the Gospel-writer) was leant to the guests in the upper room to fulfil the part of 'the youngest child' during the ceremony.
- e) The HOST or another adult should prepare a brief account of Moses, the plagues, the Passover and the Hebrew exist from Egypt.
- f) Take the event seriously, but remember it was a time of celebration. In other words, let people enjoy the event and be free to share in 20th Century fellowship, without mocking aspects of the 1st Century.
- g) Lord's Supper: Keep some of the Unleavened Bread aside. Just before the meal is completed, and without preparing the people, gather the attention of all present, read MATT.26:26, say "Grace" or a short prayer, then break off a piece of bread and pass the loaf on. Then read MATT.26:27-29, take a cup (which would have been the third cup) "give thanks", share the cup. (Be careful not to do this flippantly.) Let people be caught off guard with this act, as were the disciples. You will get varied responses to this. Some will comment about the lack of reverence. But that is the point. It was a simple act that was largely misunderstood by the disciples, but became very significant to all Christians from the day of Christ's resurrection (LUKE 24:28-35).
- h) Have an alternative for the trip to the Garden - in case it rains. (It has rained both times I have held this meal!) I have previously read JOHN 17 out aloud while the others listened and then had a half hour of group prayer. NOTE: Make sure there is light in the park if you want them to read a passage.

- i) Have a debriefing and sharing time on your return from the Garden. This allows you feedback and the opportunity to answer misunderstandings. It also gives the group time to share of their personal responses to the meal and new awareness of that last night.
- j) Do your own background study. Be warned! There will be plenty of questions, and plenty of existing misunderstandings.

There is much, much more I could say, but then I've only learnt and improved on the event as I have held the meal. May God bless you and your people, and may Christ's name be glorified as you share in this Passover Meal.

Mark Wellings.