



## Passover in Your Home

If you are eligible to take the Passover, but *unable to meet together with other brethren* at the prescribed time, you may observe it in your own home in the first month of the sacred year or, if necessary, at the second Passover 30 days later (Numbers 9:11).

The following directions are to aid you in partaking of such a service:

In advance, purchase or prepare a small amount of *unleavened bread*. Be sure the bread you use has no leavening in it whatsoever. Some Ry-Krisp (check ingredients), or Jewish matzos (preferably the plain variety) will work well. You should also obtain a small amount of *natural red wine*. Be sure you have a natural, *unfortified* wine. (The alcoholic content will be between 10 percent and 13 percent. Wines containing 19 percent to 20 percent are fortified with brandy and should not be used).

The Passover ordinance should be observed in the early evening, shortly after sunset.

Prepare the room in advance. There should be enough unleavened bread and glasses of wine on the table to correspond to the number who will be participating. A small tablespoon of wine in each glass should be sufficient for the service. Bread should be the amount for each person to have a small piece. This is not a meal. The bread and the wine should be covered with clean white napkins.

Since Passover is the most solemn evening of the year, it's preferred that all those participating should gather quietly in the room where the service will be held. Only baptized members should be participating in the actual service.

The one conducting the service should read aloud from the following scriptures:

1 Corinthians 11:23-30; Luke 22:7-15. Next, John 13:1-17 should be read. Then if two or more people are participating, they should wash one another's feet. (If one person is observing it alone, this part of the ordinance is obviously omitted).

After completing the Footwashing, the next portion of the service should serve as an **introduction to the bread and wine**. The one conducting the service should read aloud Isaiah 53:3-6, 10, 12; Matthew 8:16-17; 1 Peter 2:20-24; and Hebrews 4:14-16.

It should be pointed out that Christ's sacrifice was for the healing of our mind and body.

Next, the one conducting the service should read John 6:32-40, 48-51, 53-58; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; and 1 Corinthians 11:24.

The napkin should be removed from the bread and a short *prayer of thanks* should be offered. The bread is then to be broken and eaten. This symbolizes the broken and beaten body of Jesus Christ and our acceptance of that sacrifice.

In preparation for the **wine ceremony**, the following verses should be read aloud:

Matthew 26:27-28; 1 John 1:7-9; Hebrews 9:11-15; Ephesians 1:7.

Then the napkin should be removed from the wine and a short *prayer of thanks* offered. The wine is symbolic of Jesus' blood, shed for the remission of our sins. The wine should be passed to those participating, each one taking a glass and quietly, reverently drinking it as a renewal of his acceptance of the blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

Next, a *general reading* of John 13:18 through to the end of John 17 is to take place. Since this part can be rather lengthy, the person conducting the service may choose to only read *portions* of this section. This is the historical story of what Christ went through and did the night before He died.

After the scripture reading has been completed, **sing a hymn** if possible, and dismiss, quietly leaving the room. This service does not end with a prayer, following the scriptural example.

After the service has ended and the people have left the room, the one responsible should collect any leftover bread and wine that was blessed during the service. They should be disposed of privately and respectfully. The bread should be burned and the wine poured down the drain or on the ground outside (out of the view of others). If it is not possible to burn the bread, it should be disposed of in a way that will not allow it to be used for any other purpose or consumed as food.

These instructions are given to aid and help you in observing God's sacred ordinance of the Passover. Feel free to contact us if you have any further questions, or we may be of help to you in any way.