



# LAWNDALE

*Presbyterian Church*

## SEDER MEAL FAQ

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### What to know before you come.

Each year, our church hosts a Seder Meal. It's one of our favorite events that we do, but it is also one of the least familiar. If you've ever thought "I like this, but I'm not really sure what we're doing," then this short guide is meant to help you!

### Q. What is a Seder Meal?

A Seder is the traditional Passover Meal (Exodus 12). The word "Seder" means "order" or "arrangement" because the meal follows a set pattern of readings, symbolic foods, questions, songs, and explanations.

In the Bible, this meal is called the Passover. It was given by God to help his people remember how he redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt, especially children!

### Q. Why does our church do this meal?

The Passover meal anticipated the Lord's Supper. The night before Jesus was crucified, Jesus gathered with his disciples to share a Passover meal. It was at this meal that he instituted the Lord's Supper. That means the Seder helps us see more clearly how the Old Testament points to Christ and how Jesus fulfills what the Passover was always about. We aren't observing Passover as a required Old Covenant ordinance, but we are using this meal as a teaching tool to help us see how Passover points to Christ and the Lord's Supper.

So, this night is a way of reflecting on God's redemption, Christ's sacrifice, and the meaning of the Lord's Supper. "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." 1 Corinthians 5:7

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## Q. What should I expect?

This is an evening that is designed to be worshipful, interactive, explanatory, and joyful. You'll hear Scripture readings, move through the meal together, and learn the meaning of the different elements and see how each part points us to Christ. You do not need to already know what everything means! In fact, the evening is designed to help teach those who are unfamiliar with it.

## Q. What do the foods and actions mean?

The meal uses symbolic elements to tell the story of redemption. Scripture specifically required the lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs. Other elements were added over time to highlight parts of the Exodus story. So, the foods and actions are there to teach.

**Unleavened Bread:** Reminds us of Israel's speedy exit from Egypt and also the affliction of their bondage in Egypt.

**Bitter Herbs:** Reminds us of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt

**The Lamb:** Recalls the night God passed over the homes marked by the blood of the lamb. For Christians, it points to Jesus Christ, our true Passover lamb.

**The Cups:** the four cups mark the four promises of redemption from Exodus 6:6-7. The Cup of Sanctification, The Cup of Thanksgiving/Plagues, The Cup of Redemption, and the Cup of Praise.

**Hand and Foot Washing:** Points to cleansing and reminds us of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. A symbol of servant love.

## A Simple Summary of the night

Passover remembers God's redemption of Israel from Egypt. The Seder Meal explains the meaning of that redemption. Jesus fulfills it as our true Passover Lamb. And the Lord's Supper proclaims that finished work.

