



Communion Milestone: Learning More about the Lord's Supper

Desired Outcomes

- Appreciate and understand more deeply the mystery of Holy Communion.
- Understand Holy Communion within the context of the Jewish Seder meal and the last supper of Jesus.
- Prepare for first communion.



Introduction



Milestones Ministry





Milestones Ministry brings an awareness of the presence of God to individuals of all generations through a vital partnership between home and congregation. Milestones Ministry provides a clear and usable model for congregations, homes, and community to connect faith formation resources with daily life experiences. The rich variety of Milestones Ministry does the essential ministry of the church: promoting Christian faith formation and outreach into the larger community. The outreach element is accentuated when the celebration of milestones is offered for the entire community and not just congregational members.

Milestones Ministry provides a clear and usable model. Individuals and larger households can participate in a way of life that marks special moments and honors them as important to the journey of faith. This model provides the means to implement Vibrant Faith Ministries' vision for passing on faith—a vision that places children of all ages in the center of the church's concern and sees God's redeeming work at play through home, congregation, community, culture, and creation.

Milestones incorporate a simple structure that includes naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that the Milestones Ministry event has a greater chance to take deeper root in lifelong faith formation.

At the heart of equipping people for their lifelong faith formation are the Four Keys. These faith practices are central to every milestone and integrated into people's daily lives as well as the life of the local congregation.

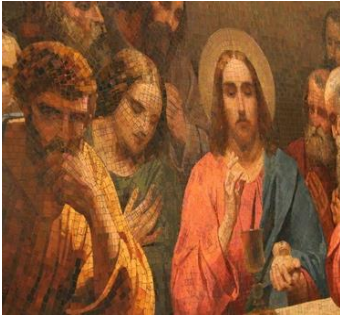
The Four Keys:

-  Caring Conversations
-  Devotions
-  Service
-  Rituals and Traditions

These four daily faith practices are simple, doable, and practical. The Four Keys are used to open the imagination of individuals, families, small groups, and congregations with the gospel of Jesus Christ. They provide ways to nurture the Christian faith and reach out to others with the love of God in Christ. They serve as a catalyst for people to wonder about and play with a variety of ways to celebrate and practice the Christian faith in their daily lives.

To maximize its effectiveness, Milestones Ministry includes role modeling of the Four Keys in the congregational setting and incorporates opportunities for a follow-up gathering. The benefits of Milestones Ministry are more deeply rooted in the lives of people when they are able to gather again for a faith formation checkup. Therefore, each Milestones Ministry event offers a follow-up gathering that includes a Four Keys outline.

Milestones Ministry provides a faith milestone as a marker along life's journey that says, "This is something important and God is here, too." It is a faith formation practice for both home and congregation that helps all generations recognize God's presence in everyday life.



Communion Milestone

First communion is a milestone in the life of a child and can be expanded to a wonderful family celebration. Because congregations commune at various ages, this Milestones Ministry event can be used as preparation for first communion or a time to reflect more deeply with children who have already received Holy Communion and are now ready to learn more about its significance in their lives. It can be a learning event for all ages, a time of family fun and joy, and a time to make lasting memories.

The Communion Milestone incorporates a simple structure that includes:

Naming – It is important to recognize this as a time to learn about the mystery of Holy Communion together as a family, whether it is for a first communion or at a more age-appropriate time.

Equipping – This milestone provides the opportunity for all ages to gather and have caring conversations about what Holy Communion means to them and gain a better understanding of this sacrament.

Blessing – The blessing for those participating in this milestone provides a reinforcement and special time to recognize God's grace and forgiveness.

Gifting – You may give a visible item as a physical reminder of this occasion, such as a candle or pottery.

Reinforcing – Follow up after the Communion Milestone by connecting this group one more time to share stories about what they learned and remember about Holy Communion. Encourage the group to experience a Seder Supper to help them learn even more. The Communion Milestone Follow Up for the congregation is on page 7.



Caring
Conversations



Devotions

Four Keys
for
Practicing Faith



Service



Rituals and
Traditions





For the Leader

This Communion Milestone celebration includes several opportunities to learn about the Lord's Supper: bread baking, optional pottery making and a follow up with a Seder Supper. All are for the children, parents, other caregivers and congregational mentors. This milestone is planned to conclude with the children receiving communion—possibly their first communion—on Maundy Thursday, setting the events into an appropriate time in the church year. However, this milestone can certainly be adapted for any time of year.

Because this Milestones Ministry event includes an important follow up, advance preparation is necessary. Families will need to arrange schedules, planners will want to schedule the optional firing of pottery, and facilities will need to be reserved.

You will even have to round up unsellable grapes from area grocery stores—if you choose to do the grape stomping. This is an awesome family and congregational milestone celebration!

Use this tool as a faith formation resource to reach outside your congregation into the general community. (See Appendix 4 for items for outreach.)



Planning for this Milestone

- Check the calendar to determine which dates would be best. The Communion Milestone Cross+Generational Event includes an important follow up so two dates should be chosen.
- Consider using this milestone as an opportunity for those who will be taking first communion as well as a way for those who already receive communion to learn more.
- Decide who will facilitate the activities and identify a team to help with gathering things needed for the activities, including bread baking, grape stomping or pottery making. (See Seder Supper Prep Appendix for supplies needed.)
- Decide which gift will be a reminder of the occasion, such as a candle, stone, pottery or pin. Allow enough time to order/make gifts. (See Appendix 1.)
- Send an invitation to children and parents/guardians. (See a sample invitation in the Appendix 2.)
- Schedule a time during worship to bless those participating and allow them to receive communion together.
- Provide for childcare, if needed.
- Appoint a team to oversee the follow-up Seder Supper, including set up, clean up, and getting food and supplies. (See Seder Supper Prep Appendix.)

+ A Cross+Generational Event

Begin the session by welcoming everyone and thanking them for understanding the importance of the Communion Milestone. Take some time to outline this event and verbally remind them of the date and time of the follow-up Seder Supper.

Preparation:

- Light snack (optional)
- Servers for set up and clean up
- Have supplies gathered and ready for the activity chosen (See Appendix 2 + 3 for bread recipe and optional grape stomping and pottery making instructions.)

Four Keys for Practicing Faith Outline:



Caring Conversations

Gather in small groups to complete these sentences:

- One thing I'd like to learn about Holy Communion is . . .
- Holy Communion is important to me because . . .



Devotions

Read Scripture: Matthew 26:26-28 (CEV)

During the meal, Jesus took some bread in his hands. He blessed the bread and broke it. Then he gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body." Jesus picked up a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. He then gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this and drink it. This is my blood, and with it God makes his agreement with you. It will be poured out, so that many people will have their sins forgiven."

After reading the Scripture, invite a leader in the congregation to talk about communion and explain what it means. In this event, children learn that communion is a family meal for the family of Christ. It is called "Eucharist" because we eat and drink in a spirit of thanksgiving. We are thankful that Christ comes to us as God in flesh—in, with and under the bread and wine. And, we are thankful that this special meal draws us closer to our community of fellow believers who participate in this meal with us.



Service

Break into small groups to bake bread, which will be used during communion at the next worship service. (See Appendix 2 for the recipe.) Make extra bread to take home or give as a gift to others. Optional: Grape stomping and pottery making. (See Appendix 3.)



Rituals and Traditions

Closing Prayer: *Holy and loving God, you who feed us daily with your love, we thank you for the gift of Holy Communion and for the opportunity to gather together in faith to receive forgiveness and new life as we receive the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ through bread and wine. Come Holy Spirit, fill our lives with trust in your promises, inspire us to acts of love, and encourage us with the hope of the heavenly banquet feast that knows no end. In the name of Christ. Amen.*

Bless one another before dismissing: *"May you know your sins are forgiven."*

Worship and Blessing

Choose a time during a worship service (apart from communion) to invite those who participated in the Communion Milestone to come forward for a blessing.

Leader: At this time, we are delighted to invite forward those who participated in the Communion Milestone. We encourage them, and all of us, to continue the faith practices of caring conversations, devotions and service to build rituals and traditions in all our homes as a way of life. These individuals learned about communion, baked the bread for our communion today, and will participate in a Seder Supper together as a follow up to this Milestone event.

Leader: In Luke 24, two disciples had been walking with the risen Lord on that first Easter Sunday. They did not recognize him although their hearts burned within them as they heard Jesus explain the Scriptures. The two invited Jesus to stay with them when they had arrived at Emmaus. That evening, when they were at the table to eat, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them. In the breaking of the bread, in that moment of Holy Communion, their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus. Today we join with these young people, their families and friends to again break bread in the presence of the risen Lord and have our eyes opened and our hearts burn with faith, with hope and with love.

Congregation: We gladly join with you at the Lord's Table today, one in Christ through the mystery of this gift of life and the promise of God's most holy word.

Leader: Let us pray.
Dear Lord, throughout time your word has told us of and promised us your steadfast love. In this sacred meal that we are about to celebrate, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, comes with forgiveness and new life in bread and wine and your word and Holy Spirit. May our hearts be opened to your presence and goodness. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

+ Milestone Event for Small Groups or Home

There are times when celebrating a milestone can be done in a small group setting, or more intimately, in homes. Take time to enjoy a meal or dessert together and to invite conversation with the following outline. You may also wish to use portions of the Cross+Generational Event found in this Communion Milestone.



Caring Conversations

Begin with conversation:

- Ask your child why being welcomed at the Lord's Table is so special.
- Invite others to talk about what Holy Communion means to them and why it is important to them.



Devotions

Read Luke 24:30-32 (CEV)

After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some bread. He blessed it and broke it. Then he gave it to them. At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared. They said to each other, "When he talked with us along the road and explained the Scriptures to us, didn't it warm our hearts?"

Take some time to talk with one another about the gifts given in Holy Communion:

- Being together with Jesus
- Receiving forgiveness
- Growing in faith
- Receiving Jesus – his body and blood
- Giving thanks



Service

In Holy Communion, Jesus feeds us spiritual food to strengthen our faith. However, there are those who need food just to stay alive. Make plans to call a food pantry to see how and when you can serve. Talk about giving something up, perhaps pizza or dinners out for a month, and then give the money you save to the congregation or a food pantry.



Rituals and Traditions

Pray together and suggest those present consider making this prayer a tradition as a family the day or night before you receive Holy Communion.

"Gracious God, may your body and blood strengthen our faith and encourage us for a life of service. Prepare our hearts to be in your presence, forgive our sins, and fill us with joy. May this gift of life draw us closer to you and to each other. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Bless one another: *"May you give thanks for Jesus."*

Resources and tools to encourage faith talk and faith practices in the home are helpful and remind us that home is church, too!

A suggestion for building rituals and traditions in the home:

4 Key Faith Practices Mat



Place a candle in the center

Place a blessing bowl in the center



Add a milestone to the bowl to encourage caring conversations





Communion Milestone Follow-Up

Experiencing a Seder Supper



Leadership Tip

An important step after role modeling the Four Keys in a cross+generational or small group setting is to bless and equip families to continue practicing faith by using the Four Keys in their homes.

The follow-up for the Communion Milestone after the initial event is an important and informative one. Bring families back together for a follow up time of caring conversation and the experience of a Seder Supper. Continue building relationships and facilitating the Four Keys as an intentional step to encourage faith traditions in the congregation and at home.



Caring Conversations

Begin with conversation:

- Something I learned about communion the first time we met is _____.
- Something I look forward to learning about the Seder is _____.



Devotions

Read Exodus 12:24-28 (CEV)

After you have entered the country promised to you by the Lord, you and your children must continue to celebrate Passover each year. Your children will ask you, "What are we celebrating?" And you will answer, "The Passover animal is killed to honor the Lord. We do these things because on that night long ago the Lord passed over the homes of our people in Egypt. He killed the first-born sons of the Egyptians, but he saved our children from death." After Moses finished speaking, the people of Israel knelt down and worshiped the Lord. Then they left and did what Moses and Aaron had told them to do.

Introduce the Seder Supper and use the *Journey: Seder Supper to Lord's Supper* booklet included in the Appendix. Gain additional information from the Seder Supper Prep Appendix.



Service

- Take time as a group to talk about what you experienced during the Seder Supper. Do you have friends who celebrate Passover each year? How can you work together to share God's love in the world?
- As you are eating the meal together, give thanks and talk about how you may help those who are not as fortunate as you to enjoy a meal each day. Consider donating to a food pantry or help your congregation's efforts to assist the hungry.



Rituals and Traditions

Closing Prayer (adapted from last page of *Journey* booklet):

We thank God for all that God has given us. We celebrate the gift of our journey from Passover to the Lord's Supper. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Bless one another: *"May you praise God for the gift of God's son."*



Appendix & Gift Ideas



5

FIVE PRINCIPLES

for living and passing on faith

1. Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal trusted relationships – often in our own homes.
2. The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home.
3. Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too.
4. Faith is caught more than it is taught.
5. If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults.

4

FOUR KEYS

for practicing faith

1. Caring Conversations
2. Devotions
3. Service
4. Rituals and Traditions

3

THREE CHARACTERISTICS

for Christians

1. Authentic
2. Available
3. Affirming

+ Appendix 1 – Communion Milestone

Underlined
resources
are active
links

Ideas for “Gifting”:



Communion Stone – Individual prayer stone for your blessing bowl.

Candle – A 10-inch, white communion candle decorated with a red Chi Rho symbol for Christ, a communion cup and host, wheat and grapes makes an elegant keepsake and wonderful gift to symbolize the light that came to the world through Jesus Christ.

First Communion Pin and Card – Celebrate First Holy Communion with a keepsake cross pin in two-tone metal with a raised chalice emblem. The one-inch pin is presented on a card with special blessing: *Here's a little cross to wear on First Communion Day, to show that you love Jesus and will follow in His way. Everyone is proud of you and how much you have grown, especially in faith and spirit, through the love you've shown. May Jesus bless and keep you, may He be your friend and guide, and may He always be with you, walking at your side.*

Additional Resources from Milestones Ministry:

FaithTalk® Cards – Are designed as a tool to provide meaningful conversations. There are 192 cards divided in to 4 categories of 48 cards each. The categories are: Memories, Etchings, Values, and Actions.

For Everything a Season – Rituals are an important part of a vibrant family life. Make both the ordinary and extraordinary events in your family more intentionally sacred by honoring them with the simple blessing rituals featured in this book. This wonderful resource provides you with a blessing for life's most meaningful moments!

Blessing Bowl and Mat for Meaningful Moments – This beautiful, handcrafted bowl not only adds a lovely decorative touch to any home, but also holds special meaning to the family that owns it. Milestones Blessing Bowls are designed to remind us of those meaningful moments that make up our lives.

Blessing Bowl for Congregational Milestones – The Congregational Milestones Blessing Bowl is a great way to celebrate each important milestone in the congregation. The hand-painted stones help visually remind congregations of the significance of a child's faith milestones, such as baptism, entering Sunday school, first communion, confirmation, and graduation.

Blessing Bowl and/or Additional Stones – The bowls and stones for Milestones Ministry, LLC are designed, handcrafted, and painted by artist Dawn Deines-Christensen of Prairie Patterns. These stones make wonderful gifts as reminders of special, meaningful moments in our lives.

Individual Milestones – A faith milestone is a marker along life's journey that says, “This is something important and God is here, too.” Marking a milestone is a biblically-based spiritual practice in both home and congregation that helps all generations recognize God's presence in all of life.

Taking Faith Home Bulletin Inserts – Spark interesting conversations using this lectionary-based Four Keys tool for the home.

Four Key Mat – Let this Four Key Mat adorn your table with a candle or blessing bowl as you engage in caring conversations and household devotions, share ideas and stories for serving, and create meaningful rituals and traditions.

Go to **Milestones Ministry, LLC** website and look under the Toolbox tab for more ideas. www.milestonesministry.org



+ Appendix 2 – Communion Milestone

(Sample Invitation):

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Holy Communion is a gift from God! As with any gift that God bestows, it is given with no strings attached—there is nothing that we can do that makes us more or less worthy to receive the gift. When you or your child receives a gift, it is natural to want to know all about what it is, how it works, and what to do with it. That is what the Communion Milestone is designed to teach your child.

On _____, we will all make bread together! Each family will take some home to bake—one to enjoy together, and one to be used for Holy Communion at our worship service.

As a follow-up, we will celebrate a traditional Seder Supper on _____, to learn about the Passover by experiencing it together. Note that this is not a “meal” but a *sampling* of traditional Seder Supper elements.

Then, finally on _____, you and your child will participate in Holy Communion together at the worship service. If your child will be receiving communion for the first time, this milestone will be a very special one in your child’s faith journey. It is also a chance for you as parents and guardians to come together with your child in a way that we don’t do often enough—to grow together in faith.

To help you focus on your child and the training for first communion, we will provide nursery care for siblings. Please RSVP by _____, so that we can better prepare for this Milestones Ministry event.

We look forward to sharing this time with you and your child!

Sincerely,

Optional:

On _____, we will help you and your child make the *challis* (cup) and *paten* (bread plate) that will be used for your child’s first communion.

Flat Bread Recipe

- 3 cups whole-wheat blend flour
- 1/3 to 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup hot water

Mix flour, sugar and salt. Cut oil into flour (similar to making a pie crust). You may use two forks, two knives, or a pastry-blending tool to combine the oil into flour, sugar, and salt mixture. Add water.

Knead dough a couple of times. The dough rolls better when warm, so if premixed and cooled, heat the dough 30 seconds in a microwave at the highest setting before rolling. Roll the dough very thin.

You may precook your flatbread on a griddle (set at 350 degrees) for two-to-nine minutes until dry, or bake at 325-350 degrees in the oven. If you don’t precook, add two to three minutes to your oven baking time.

Test your timing after five minutes and again at one-minute intervals until desired brownness. Your finished unleavened bread, flatbread, is lightly browned, crisp, dry and delicious!

+ Appendix 3 – Communion Milestone

Pottery Making

One or two people familiar with working with pottery lead this activity.

Show the children how to create a challis and paten (communion goblet and plate). Imprint paten with wheat stalk and challis with the eraser end of a pencil to look like grapes. The person(s) responsible for the pottery are responsible for adding the color, glazing, and firing the challises and patens later.

Make sure to mark each challis and paten with the child's name on the bottom.

(Tip: Don't glaze the bottom of the items. The child's name or initials will disappear if glazed.)

Grape Stomping

The grape stomping area should be large enough to accommodate all the children, parents, and other guests.

- Obtain an old kiddie pool to use for the event and dispose of when finished
- Lay a tarp down under the kiddie pool that is large enough to protect the floor from spills
- Fill the pool with grapes. Area grocery stores are usually willing to donate old grapes that are being thrown out
- Purchase or collect red and/or green grapes (purple rot too quickly) from two or three different stores
- You will need different kinds of grape juices and communion cups available for after the stomping
- Assign someone to take pictures!
- Children should take their shoes and socks off. Remind them of how God takes common things like grapes that make wine and uses them to create a miracle
- Have the kids take turns stepping into the pool with leader to stomp grapes
- Invite parents to participate
- Plastic tubs of warm water should be available with towels so the children can rinse their feet when they are finished stomping
- When everyone has had a turn, have kids sit down around the pool
- Provide grape juice in small cups for the children to drink, discussing how juice (white or purple grape) or wine (white or red) can be used for communion because *it's all the same when used for communion*

+ Appendix 4 – Communion Milestone

A Tool for Outreach:

Milestones Ministry provides a clear and usable model for congregations, homes, and communities to connect faith formation resources with daily life experience. Outreach into the community is a major gift of Milestones Ministry. This Milestone is written with the larger community in mind and is part of a lifelong faith formation ministry that can serve and bless other people besides the immediate congregational members. As your congregational leaders make plans to implement this milestone celebration, please consider the outreach ideas presented below as ways to reach out to those in the surrounding neighborhood and bless them with the life and faith of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ways to Support Faith Formation:

- **Start early in life**
(cross+generational and including all ages is the goal)
- **Involve faith practices**
(the Four Keys model for practicing faith is embedded in all the resources)
- **Be relational**
(faith is formed through personal interactions)
- **Promote Christian hospitality**
(welcome all with food, warm greetings, and smiles)
- **Have fun, fun, fun!**
(people thirst to return to joyful settings)
- **Involve everyone**
(all ages doing ministry grows faith lives)

Using this Module as Outreach...

- **Leads** the church to include those not immediately considered as the ones who benefit from the ministry of a local congregation
- **Adds** creative and compassionate imagination about how to reach a larger audience
- **Includes** surrounding neighborhoods and larger communities
- **Uses** social media to reach more people including family and friends living in another state or country
- **Uses** the Milestone event to reach out to those who are not present at a larger group event by providing an outline for the home

Suggestions for Using Within the Congregation and Beyond:

- Include all those who will be having a first communion in the near future. Make sure parents and other family members are also invited.
- Include children and youth who have already been receiving communion for years. It is a good thing to help young people go deeper with their understanding and appreciation of holy communion.
- Encourage children and families who will be attending this Milestone event to invite others to come, like classmates, cousins, friends, and neighbors. Put together a special invitation card that people can hand out to others and that describes holy communion as a sacrament or ordinance in the Christian faith, one that does not require congregational membership. Emphasize that it is an invitation to Christ's table, not a congregation's table.
- Set up a community garden and include grape vines for grapes that will be part of the Milestone experience. Let the community know that all are welcome to experience the Communion Milestone, perhaps offered at the end of the growing season.
- Make copies of the event for the home from page 6 and suggest families and friends go through this outline together to encourage faith talk about communion among family. As a follow-up, ask family and friends to be present during worship to commune together.



+ Appendix – Seder Supper Prep

Groceries

- ☐ Apples
- ☐ Nuts
- ☐ Raisins
- ☐ Cinnamon
- ☐ Honey
- ☐ Grape juice
- ☐ Lamb with shank bone
- ☐ Matzo bread
- ☐ Wine
- ☐ Parsley
- ☐ Horseradish (root and prepared)
- ☐ Salt
- ☐ Ice

Other

- ☐ Plates
- ☐ Forks
- ☐ Clear, plastic wine glasses
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Styrofoam bowls
- ☐ Wine bottles or decanters (flower vases)
- ☐ Candles and matches
- ☐ Seder Supper booklet (see folder contents)

Meal

- Charoset—two bowls per table
- Lamb—one plate per table
- Matzo bread—one box for 20 people
- Parsley—three or four bunches per table
- Salt water—one bowl per table
- Horseradish—one bowl per table
- Wine or grape juice—one pitcher of each per table

Recipe for Charoset

Serves 180

20 lbs. chopped apples
14 oz. chopped nuts
3 lbs. raisins
4 tbsp. cinnamon
32 oz. honey
4 C. grape juice

Mix ingredients in advance so apples turn brown (approximately one hour).

Recipe for Lamb

- Place meat fat side up on rack in open, shallow roasting pan
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit
- Insert meat thermometer so tip is in the center of the thickest part of the meat and does not touch bone or rest in fat
- Do not cover or add water
- Roast 30 to 35 minutes per pound
- Meat is done when the thermometer reads 175–180 degrees
- Let rest 15 to 20 minutes before carving
- Carve into bite-size pieces for the approximate number of people

+ Appendix – Seder Supper Prep

Room Set Up

1. You will need one head table for the pastor to lead the supper. On the head table, place the following:

Table setting with plate, fork, and wine glass
Plate of matzo bread (covered with napkin)
Bottle of grape juice
Bowl of parsley
Bowl of charoset
Bowl of water/paper towels for washing hands

Candles/matches (*do not light candles before the meal starts*)
Bottle of wine
Bowl of salty water for dipping parsley
Bowl of horseradish
Plate of roasted lamb

2. Set up additional tables with eight-to-10 people at each table (sized to accommodate everybody).
On each table, place the following:

Table setting with plate, fork, and wine glass
Plate of matzo bread (covered with napkin)
Bottle of grape juice
Bowl of parsley
Bowl of charoset
Bowl of water/paper towels for washing hands

Candles/matches (*do not light candles before the meal starts*)
Bottle of wine
Bowl of salty water for dipping parsley
Bowl of horseradish
Plate of roasted lamb

3. Find an open space for a circle dance in narthex
4. Make a table tent for each of the five questions (in the box below) and place them on various tables

Why do we have lamb on our table?

Why do we have this kind of bread on our table?

Why do we have these herbs on our table?

Why do we have wine with this meal?

Why do we eat this apple mixture?



+ Appendix – Seder Supper Prep

Suggested Work Plan

- Make charoset
- Clean vases/decanter
- Get paper towels ready
- Put candles in holders

(Start time dependent on Seder time)

- Start roasting lamb (350 degrees)

(Several hours before Seder)

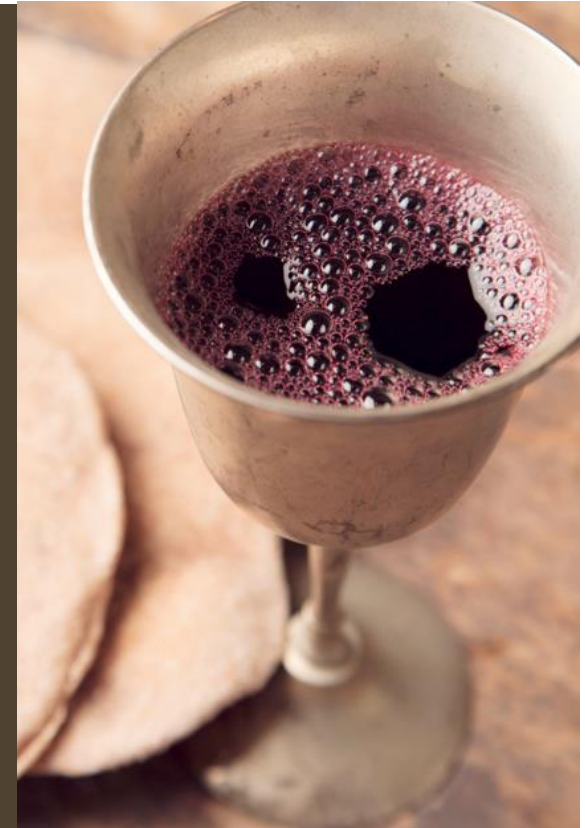
- Arrange tables, chairs, and head table in fellowship hall
- Set table with booklets and evaluation forms (no name tags)
- Set tables with placemats, plates, forks, napkins, wine, and filled water glasses
- Candles and matches (*do not light candles before the meal starts!*)
- Put wine and grape juice in bottles for each table (one of each)
- Make plate of matzo bread for each table (cover with napkin)
- On each table, arrange parsley on a plate around a glass of salt water
- Put a bowl of warm water and paper towels on each table
- Put a pitcher of water on each table
- Place a small bowl of horseradish on each table
- Cut roasted lamb into bite-size pieces; put a plate of lamb on each table
- Place a bowl of charoset on each table
- Place the table tents (cards with the five questions) on five random tables

JOURNEY:

Seder Supper to the Lord's Supper



THIS DO
IN REMEMBRANCE
OF ME



MILESTONES MINISTRY, LLC

www.milestonesministry.org

SEDER SUPPER

First Communion Milestone



Journey: Seder Supper to the Lord's Supper

People of Jewish faith celebrate the Passover by sharing a family meal called the Seder. The menu hasn't changed in 3,300 years! You can find it in Exodus 12: 1-20.

The Seder is one of the greatest Jewish feasts.

It is:

A festival of freedom

An expression of God's own love for us

A harvest feast of Thanksgiving

A pilgrim's festival (we are still a people moving toward God)

A feast of sadness and celebration

Christians, too, have a claim on the Seder. It was during this Passover meal that our Lord Jesus broke bread and lifted the cup, celebrating the First Communion with his disciples.

At our Seder Supper today, we join in table fellowship to remember a great moment, which is a cause for joy!

We are glad that you are here! Introduce yourselves to the "family" at your table, relax, and enjoy this celebration together!

From Passover to Lord's Supper

From Passover to Lord's Supper

Jesus and his disciples gathered together to celebrate the Passover Supper just like we have done today. However, Jesus changed the meal somewhat. Rather than washing his hands, Jesus washed his disciple's feet to symbolize the call to serve others. Jesus also created new meanings and symbols for us. "Jesus took bread, gave a prayer of thanks, and gave it to his disciples." "Take and eat it," he said, "this is my body." Then, Jesus took a cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them. "Drink it all of you," he said, "this is my blood poured out for you for the forgiveness of sin." When Jesus did this, he changed the course of our journey and replaced some of the meaning of the Passover Meal. The wine, which was a symbol of deliverance from slavery, became a symbol of even greater deliverance — a symbol of Jesus' blood poured out for us for the deliverance from our sins. The bread, that was a symbol of running away from something, became a symbol of Jesus' body, a symbol of hope for our future and a promise of life everlasting. Jesus himself became the lamb who died so we can live. Every time we have communion, we celebrate together the hope that Jesus has given us. We thank God for all that He has given us! We celebrate the gift of our journey from the Passover to the Lord's Supper. Thanks be to God!

Table Manners

Blessing and Prayer

Looking to Maundy Thursday

Explanation of Ceremonial Food

The salt water symbolizes tears and sorrow. It also reminds us of the parting of the sea so God's people could flee Pharaoh's armies.

Parent 5: Why do we eat this apple mixture?

Pastor: The charoset is a symbol of the mortar and clay used when the slaves had to make bricks and build buildings for the Egyptian king. To show affection, we take a piece of matzoh, dip it into the charoset, and give it to another person (let's do this now).

Life is bittersweet. The sweet and pleasant taste of the charoset reminds us that, even during hard times, we look forward to better days.

Let's eat some of the bitter herb mixed with the charoset. It reminds us how bitter slavery is and how sweet our freedom is (put both on matzoh and eat).

The Bible, in Exodus 12:8, says to combine the lamb with the bread and bitter herbs. Let's try that combination.

Experiment with different combinations of the foods on the table, remembering their meanings. During this time, please visit and enjoy one another.

Pastor: Blessed are you, O Lord, our God who created fruit of the vine. We drink wine in gratitude for the freedom of our ancestors and in thankfulness for the gifts of the earth of which we have eaten (take final sip of wine).

Now let's dance and celebrate!! Hava Nagilah!

Lighting the Festival Lights

Pastor: We will begin our journey from the Passover Supper to the Lord's Supper according to an ancient Jewish custom. The mother lights the candles for every service that takes place in a Jewish home. These candles are a symbol of the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the World. As the candles are lit, please say with me:

All: Jesus, you are the light of the world! *(A woman at each table lights the candles.) (A man pours wine or juice into each cup.)*

Pastor: We give thanks for the special feast of the Passover, which celebrates the freedom of our ancestors from slavery in Egypt. We raise our cups of wine in celebration and say together, "Praise to you O God!"

All: Praise to you, O God! *(Drink a sip of wine)*

Pastor: At the Seder Supper, Jewish people celebrated the deliverance of their ancestors from slavery in Egypt. Long ago, the Hebrews (that's what they were called then) lived in Egypt. The king was Pharaoh, and he made the Hebrew people slaves. They called to the Lord to save them. So, God brought them out of Egypt with great signs and wonders! God led them to the desert and took care of them by giving them food and drink. God made an agreement with them: He said, *"I will you your God and you will be my people."*

Explanation of Ceremonial Food

Pastor: The ritual, cleaning of hands, is a traditional part of celebrating the Seder Supper. It not only gets the germs off our hands before we eat, but it is symbolic of cleaning our hearts and minds (wash hands).

Child 1: Why do we have lamb on our table?

Pastor: This lamb is the symbol of the lambs that were killed so the Hebrew peoples' houses could be marked with blood and spared by the angel of death. Their children were saved by the blood of a lamb, but the Egyptians' children were killed. (You may taste the lamb.)

Child 2: Why do we have this kind of bread on our table?

Pastor: This unleavened bread is the symbol of the bread that was baked in a hurry because the Egyptians wanted them to leave quickly. This bread is called matzoh. (You may taste the bread.)

Child 3: Why do we have these herbs on the table?

Pastor: These bitter herbs are a symbol of the bitter hatred the Egyptians had for God's people. The Egyptians made fun of them, beat them, and made their lives miserable! (You may taste the herbs.)

Child 4: Why do we have wine with this meal?

Pastor: A full cup is the symbol of complete joy. Our happiness is not complete, though, as long as others have to be sacrificed.

Explanation of Ceremonial Food

So, as we remember the plagues that the Egyptians had to suffer, we pour off wine as each plague is recited (dip your finger into the wine and put a drop onto your plate as each plague is named).

Blood	Beasts	Darkness
Frogs	Boils	Flies
Gnats	Hail	Killing of firstborn
Locusts		

We drink wine as a symbol of the deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Say with me, "Praise to the Lord," and drink a sip of wine.

All: Praise to the Lord!

Pastor: We thank God for all that God has done for us, bringing us from slavery to freedom, from darkness to light, from sorrow to joy! Soon, we will dance and celebrate.

Pastor: We now dip this green fruit of the earth into salt water as we recite together, "Thank you, God, for all your gifts."

All: Thank you, God, for all your gifts.

Pastor: In the salt water, we remember the tears of your people when they were slaves (dip the parsley into the salt water two times, then eat it).

Pastor: The parsley symbolizes spring time and fruit of the earth, but it also is a symbol of being new and clean. (Does anyone know why restaurants put parsley on your plates?)