

Remember & Celebrate

PASSOVER: CELEBRATING GOD'S DELIVERANCE

Inspire (for parents)

As I walk down the path of the cemetery where my father is buried, leaves rustle in the wind. All around me, graves mark the resting places for mothers, sons, daughters, fathers, and loved ones.

Some of the memorials along the path are huge, with names prominently displayed on stone that will stand the ravages of weather and time. But the one that means the most to me is my dad's simple plaque that hunkers flush to the grass, nearly hidden.

My dad left for work on February 1, 1965, and never returned. He was 45 years old—too young to die. On the grave, his name is written along with his favorite quote, "... the world has yet to see what a man fully committed to God can accomplish."

Memorials are like that. God knows we need places for remembrance. Throughout Scripture, God instructed His people to create memorials out of stone in worship and

reverence for what He has done. He wanted them to be places that helped us keep walking on the path toward Him.

I think of how God uses both the prominent and the hidden memorials in our lives as touchstones for remembering and celebrating. From the road, the large gravestones humble me in my mortality, and bring me to praise the God who gave me eternal life. And my father's gravestone, now lying hidden in the grass, leads me to thank God for my father's life.

I pray I can walk with my children, as my father did before me, on the path toward being a "man fully committed to God."

☪ by Rick Lund

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This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **before your children attend church**. Because God's plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

PASSOVER

During Passover, the Israelites celebrate their deliverance from the Egyptians, as well as God as their Deliverer. The Passover meal is symbolic in form and also in the food choices, for each represents a part of telling the story of their escape from Egypt. The meal includes lamb to symbolize the slain lambs whose blood marked the doorposts of the Hebrews on the night of the 10th plague from which the angel of death "passed over" those homes. In the New Testament, Jesus became the sacrificial lamb on Passover to offer deliverance from sin for all people for all time, for those who receive it.

OLD TESTAMENT SIGNIFICANCE

Several times a year, the Israelites gathered together for a feast or festival. In Leviticus 23, the Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed feasts ... which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.'" These seven feasts and festivals are: Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Festival of First Fruits, Feast of Harvest, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths). In addition, the Israelites would gather weekly to celebrate the Sabbath. These were times to remember what God had done for His people and to celebrate His goodness. They were times for the entire faith community to gather together without the burden of work to simply worship and celebrate. During the feasts, the Israelites ate, danced, sang, played instruments, prayed, and offered sacrifices to God.

NEW TESTAMENT SIGNIFICANCE

The Feast of Passover was fulfilled by the death of the Messiah, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was fulfilled by His sinless sacrifice,

and the Festival of First Fruits was fulfilled by the resurrection of the Messiah. The Feast of Harvest began with a great harvest of three thousand souls by the coming of the promised

Holy Spirit, who continues to harvest souls today. The Feast of Trumpets will announce Christ's return, the Day of Atonement will usher in His judgment of the nations, and finally, the Feast of Tabernacles begins the journey to our new home in a new heaven and new earth. ☪

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Support

(for parents & kids)

This week your children will pause to remember and celebrate God, while learning about the Passover Feast.

Ask your children if they understand what it means to be delivered. Have them think about something that has been delivered to your home, a pizza, a package, etc. Talk with them about the journey that item might have taken to arrive safely to your home. Then share with them how God rescued and protected the Israelites and brought them out of Egypt. Explain to them how He delivered His people safely to the land He had promised them and how they remembered and celebrated their delivery with the Passover Feast.

Read with your children Psalm 18:1-3, and celebrate God as your family's deliverer. Put on some of your favorite worship music, and dance and sing together. Then pray together, thanking God that He protects and delivers us! ☪