

Remember & Celebrate

FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD: CELEBRATING GOD'S PROVISION

Inspire (for parents)

Recently I had the privilege of attending a high school graduation party for long-time family friends. The party was held at a beautiful home and celebrated the graduation of four boys. Three of these boys had attended school together since they were in junior kindergarten. The celebration was filled with the usual: great food, music, graduation gifts, and, of course, a beautiful cake for all to enjoy.

However, something set this celebration apart from the thousands of other celebrations also being held. There was a moment when everyone was asked to "gather round," while the parents spoke a blessing over their graduates. They chose to have their mothers read the blessings. Through laughter and tears, each mother took a moment to share about her son's personality and celebrate how God had uniquely gifted him. Each shared about special awards, funny moments, and even girlfriend drama. Then, each mother read the life

verse she had chosen for her son when he was younger. They shared how that verse had played out in the life of her child.

Then one of the fathers came forward and directed the boys to line up. He proceeded to give them a charge. He pointed to the declaration of Romans 12:2, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world." He reminded them that college life would be filled with choices where they would need to be able to hear and discern God's voice.

He shared with them that their "new normal" would not include the protection of their families. Then, in agreement with all in attendance, he prayed for the boys in this next step of their faith journey. What a wonderful way to remember and celebrate God's faithfulness.

☪ by Debbie Guinn

"There was a moment when everyone was asked to 'gather around,' while the parents spoke a blessing over their graduates."

This resource is designed to encourage 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)

FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a celebration of God's miraculous deliverance of the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt and, ultimately, our deliverance from the bondage of sin. The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins the day after Passover. It was a command upon God's people to take seven days to eat bread without yeast, and to cease working on the first and seventh days. The unleavened bread portrays the quick departure from Egypt, not having time for their yeast to rise. In the New Testament, Jesus speaks of yeast (or leaven) symbolically, as sin. Jesus broke unleavened bread with His disciples and said, "This is my body." Jesus, God incarnate, was without sin, and His body was "broken" during His crucifixion.

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). 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 and festivals, 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. ☪

"These were times to remember what God had done for His people and to celebrate His goodness."

Support (for parents & kids)

During the Remember & Celebrate lesson, your kids will pause to remember and celebrate what God has done in their lives over the past several weeks, while highlighting the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

This week gather your family together with a loaf of bread and some flat crackers or matzo bread. Take a moment to explain to your children what yeast is and how it works. Show them the difference between the loaf of bread and the crackers.

Share with your children that when God's people escaped from Egypt, they left in such a hurry they didn't have time to wait for their bread dough to rise. God's people have remembered and celebrated this with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And just as God delivered Israel from the slavery of Egypt, Jesus has delivered us from the slavery of sin. As you munch on your crackers and bread, read **Psalm 18:1-2**, and thank God for being our deliverer. ☪