

# GOOD FRIDAY EXPERIENCE



**NEWSONG**LA  
CHURCH



## *Welcome*

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Welcome to our Good Friday experience. Tonight we will experience together what it may have been like leading up to the death of Jesus as well as learn about its significance. There are many parts to this experience. Some that are interactive, some where you can reflect, and a service where we will gather around the cross together. We hope you fully engage and immerse yourself in this Good Friday Experience.

Let us begin by reciting this opening prayer:

God of power and mercy,  
in love you sent your Son  
that we might be cleansed of sin  
and live with you forever.  
Bless us as we gather to reflect  
on his suffering and death  
that we may learn from his example  
the way we should go.

We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord. Amen

## PASSOVER MEAL

# 1

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*On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"*

**Matthew 26:17**

We begin our experience with a Passover Meal. The Passover Meal, also known as the Seder, is a festive gathering done in a particular order. Seder actually means order. This Seder is traditionally a 15 step process. You won't go through all 15 steps tonight but you will learn what the sections of the plate represents, and experience what Jesus and his disciples may have eaten that night.

The first step of the Seder is the **Kadesh**. This is where we say an opening prayer and blessing, marking the day. Candles are often lit too. Tonight there are no candles, and we shall let the prayer we said earlier serve as our recitation of the blessing.

Next is the **Urchatz**, the washing of hands. Use the pitchers of water and bowls to wash your hands and you may now enter into the last supper.

Find a seat and we will continue with tonight's Seder. The purpose of this meal is to retell and remember the story of the Passover. The different foods, blessings, and washings all tell the story of the Jews being in bondage and then delivered from Egypt. Two things to note about tonight's meal, 1, it does contain nuts and was prepared in a place with nuts and 2, the egg and lamb bone are not for eating. Before the final plague in Egypt, the Jews sacrificed a lamb and spread its blood over the door ways. This lamb bone represents that. There are many thoughts on the significance of the egg on the plate. Tonight, let it represent hope. And please take this hope, and egg home with you tonight.

Grab a piece of parsley from your plate, and then dip it into the salt water on the table. The parsley represents the hopefulness of spring, while the saltwater represents the tears of slavery. This is the **Karpas**. The next two sections are the **Yachatz** and **Maggid**. There are 3 pieces of matzah (unleavened bread) on the table. In the Yachatz, the middle piece is taken out and broken in half. Some believe there are 3 pieces of bread (matzah) to represent God the Father, Son and Spirit. So the 2nd piece taken out could represent the Son, Jesus, and His body being broken for us. The larger of the 2 pieces gets hidden after it is broken and will reappear later. During the Maggid, the youngest at the table usually asks 4 questions. These questions center around what happened at the Passover and why is today's meal different than normal meals.

Now is a good time to discuss at the table what is Good Friday. And why this Friday is not like a normal Friday. You can encourage kids at your table to ask questions.

After all those questions it's only natural to have guests wash their hands again and say a blessing right? That's exactly what happens now at the **Rachtzah** (you don't have to wash your hands again). Next up are the **Motzi** and the **Matzo**. In the Motzi, the group shares a blessing specific to eating leavened or unleavened bread. And during the Matzo, guests recite a prayer blessing the matzah.

Now is the **Maror**. You can take the lettuce and dip it in the horseradish or just eat the lettuce alone. This bitter taste is a reminder of the bitterness of slavery. Next is the **Korech**. This is a direct command from Numbers 9:11. Take your bitter herbs and put them between some matzah. Next take the bitter herbs and charoset and eat between matzah. The charoset represents the clay or mortar used to make bricks when the Jewish people were enslaved in Egypt.

Now for the main meal, the **Shulchan Orech**. This often includes gefilte fish and matzah ball soup, but can also incorporate a variety of meat or vegetarian entrées and sides. Tonight you've either already had your main dish before coming to the experience, or you can grab it after this experience.

At the end of the main meal is the **Tzafun**. This is where kids find that hidden piece of the 2nd matzah, called the afikomen and bring it to the table. This symbolizes the move from brokenness toward healing.

The final 3 parts of the Seder are the **Barech, Hallel,** and **Nirtzah.** More blessings and songs are sung, and more drink is poured. The Seder is closed with an expression “Next year in Jerusalem” and more songs.

Kids, did you see room 203? This room is a space for you to have fun. The games in this room all have something to do with the Passover, plagues and God rescuing His people from Egypt.

## FOOT WASHING

# 2

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The Seder is a traditional experience of remembering the Passover, but we know that this particular meal with Jesus and the disciples had a lot more drama and things that weren't very traditional at the time. There was a lot more to come on this Good Friday evening.

*The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After*

*that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

**John 13:2-5**

It's now time to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and engage in foot washing. What does engage in foot washing mean? It means you should both receive and give a foot washing to someone else.

*"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."*

**John 13:14-15**

## SCOURGED & CROWNED WITH THORNS

# 3

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As you walk through the hallway you'll hear agonizing sounds of whips and chains hitting the body of Jesus. This was a very brutal part of the story and one that we should not forget. As you pass room 206 look inside to see the crown of thorns that was placed upon Jesus' head, and the nails pierced thru his hands.

*Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head*

**John 19:1-2**

## CROSSES OF THIEVES

### 4

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*Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed....*

**Luke 23:32**

As you continue into the lobby, you will see two crosses. These are the crosses of the two criminals that were hung to the left and right of Jesus.

## ***BETRAYAL, AGONY IN THE GARDEN, PETER'S DENIAL***

### 5

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In our gallery we recap the events that led up to Jesus at the cross. These are scenes of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas betraying Jesus with a kiss, Peter denying Jesus and other moments before the crucifixion.

Please remain in these areas of the experience until you're directed to go inside for a brief service.  
(5:30,6:30,7:30)

## *STATIONS OF THE CROSS*

# 6

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During this brief service, Pastor Dan will guide us through some of the stations of the cross. You'll realize that you've experienced some of these things earlier in the evening. Reflect on how that felt and what it must have been like in Jesus' day. There are moments of call and response. You will read aloud all the text highlighted in **RED**. Experience who put Jesus on the cross.

## *THE TOMB*

# 7

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Take this time to continue to reflect on the crucified Saviour that is now laid to rest.

## *REFLECTION*

# 8

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This is the final area of the experience. As you reflect on the story of the Cross, what do you feel you need to give to Jesus? Is it a sin to be confessed? A worry or burden to let go of? A barrier you face to trusting in God?

You are invited to symbolically place these on the Cross. Take a "stone" and write on it, something you wish to give to Jesus.

Using the provided tacks, place your stone on the cross.

## *SUNDAY*

# 9

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Thank you for coming to our Good Friday Experience. The story doesn't end here. Sunday is around the corner and we'll be here (10am) to conclude this story.