

CHURCH OF GOD (PHILIPPINES)

Passover in Your Home Instructions

If you are a baptized member, eligible to take the Passover, but unable to meet with other brethren at the **prescribed time**, you may observe it in your own home in the first month of the sacred year (or due to emergency beyond your control, at the *second Passover* 30 days later [Numbers 9: 11]). The following are to aid you in partaking of such a service:

In advance, purchase or prepare a small amount of unleavened bread. Be sure the bread that you use has **no** leavening in it whatsoever, like “*Jewish Matzos**.” You should also obtain some **natural red grape wine**. Be sure you have a natural unfortified wine, with alcoholic content between 10 to 13 percent only. Wines containing more should not be used. One type available locally is the *Carlo Rossi California Red*. It meets **all** of these specifications.

The Passover ordinance should be observed in the early evening, soon after sunset. Prepare the room in advance. There should be enough unleavened bread and glasses of wine on the table to correspond to the number who will be participating. A tablespoon of wine in each glass should be sufficient for the service. The bread and the wine should be covered with clean white napkins.

Since Passover is the most solemn evening of the year, all those participating should *gather quietly in the room* where the service will be held. Only baptized members should be participating in the actual service and partaking of the bread and wine.

Unless you are alone, the one conducting the service should read aloud the following scriptures: 1 Corinthians 11:23-30; Luke 22:7-15. Next John 13:1-17 should be read. Then if two or more people are participating, they should wash one another’s feet. Except for married couple, a man and a woman should *not* wash each other’s feet, and thus this part of the ceremony should be *omitted*, as in the case of a person *observing it alone*.

After completing the foot-washing, the next portion of the service should serve as an introduction to the bread and wine. The one conducting the service should read aloud Isaiah 53:3-6,10,12; Matthew 8:16-17; 1Peter 2:20-24; and Hebrews 4:14-16. It should be pointed out that Christ’s sacrifice was for the healing of our mind and body. Next, the one conducting the service should read John 6:32-40, 48-51, 53-58; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; and 1 Corinthians 11:24. The napkin should be removed from the bread and a short prayer of thanks should be offered. The bread is then to be broken and eaten. This symbolizes the broken body of Yahshua Messiah and our acceptance of His sacrifice.

In preparation for the wine ceremony, the following verses should be read aloud: Matthew 26:27-28; 1 John 1:7-9; Hebrews 9:11-15; Ephesians 1:7. Then the napkin should be removed from the wine and a short prayer of thanks offered. The wine is symbolic of Yahshua’s blood, shed for the remission of our sins. The wine should be passed to those participating; each one taking a glass and quietly, reverently drinking it as a renewal of acceptance of the blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

Next, a general reading of John 13:18 through John 17 is to take place. Since it is rather long, the person conducting the service may choose to only read portions of this section. This is the story of what Christ did the night before He died.

After the scripture reading, sing a hymn if possible, and dismiss, *quietly* leaving the room. It is appropriate to remind those participating about the *solemn and sacred occasion throughout the evening*, and especially as everyone is departing.

After the service has ended and the people have left the room, the one in charge should collect any leftover bread and wine that was blessed during the service, and remove them from the premises. They should be disposed of privately and respectfully. The bread should be burned and the wine poured down the drain or on the ground outside (out of the view of others). If it is not possible to burn the bread, it should be disposed of in a way that will not allow it to be used for any other purpose or consumed as food.

These instructions are to help you in observing God's sacred ordinance of the Passover.

PASTOR'S NOTE:

This year (**2018**), Passover service will be held after sunset on **Sunday, April 29**, starting about 6:30 that evening. (In God's reckoning of time, that is already April 30 because God's days begin *at* sunset.)

*The unleavened bread product mentioned is not available in the Philippines. Therefore, ignore buying it. However, if you want to make your own unleavened bread (which should be easy) below is the procedure.

PROCEDURE FOR MAKING UNLEAVENED BREAD

Simply get a small amount of flour and gradually mix it with just enough amount of water to wet all of it; thoroughly kneading it to make a thick mixture called dough. Then roll the dough into a small ball about the size of an egg. Next flatten it using a baker's rolling pin or simply use an ordinary cylindrical bottle or jar, which can equally do the job. Note that the thinner you make it; the crispier it will become and the quicker it will bake.

You may use an oven or an ordinary frying pan (*kalaha*) like what is used in frying but without cooking oil. If you prefer, you may wipe the pan with oil just to prevent it from sticking when cooking. Now, with the heated oven or pan, spread your flattened dough on it until it turns from whitish to very light brown. If your dough is somewhat thicker, you may still wish to invert it to complete the cooking; but watch that it does not get over-cooked. It is that simple!

Depending on your preference, some may want to add a little salt, sugar, milk, egg, or butter. However, be sure that NO baking powder or baker's yeast is added; otherwise it would no longer be unleavened bread.

WINE

In the Philippines, ***Carlo Rossi California Red*** is quite common in most wine stores. Burgundy or Claret with the same specifications stated above may also be used. If none of these is available in your area, please inform me immediately so we can make arrangements to provide some for you. We might be able to provide you some unleavened bread too.

I pray that God will guide and bless you, as you seek His will continually in your life and follow it.

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION:

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