

## Notes to the Leader for S82 – Passover: A Tale of Liberation

### Context

Periodically we like to incorporate spiritual lessons from our Jewish and Christian “roots.” Passover is arguably the most important of the Jewish High Holy Days, and its themes of oppression and freedom are still relevant today. In the fall, we will continue the exploration of Jewish tradition with a session around Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which explores the themes of repentance and forgiveness.

### Upcoming Seder Dinner

Please encourage your group to experience Passover at our church’s annual Seder, which will take place on April 17. This is a very moving ceremony that we’ve adapted to incorporate our own values and beliefs. It also includes a great dinner! Translations of everything are available for Spanish speakers, too. Volunteers are urgently needed for cooking, set-up, and clean-up.

### Session Preparation

The depth of this session will be enhanced if each member thinks about the topic in advance. *Please encourage members to at least read the first page of the preparation.* Distribute the preparation sheet at the end of the prior session and make sure absent members receive a copy. Have extra copies available at the gathering for people who have forgotten to bring their copies.

### Preliminaries

Prior to beginning the session, take a few minutes to go over the announcements of church events given at the last leader meeting or from a recent church bulletin. Mention the Seder at church on April 17. Also, remind members of the next meeting date. Get volunteers to light the chalice and read the opening words.

### Discussion

The discussion period is meant to allow group members to go deeper, share things they may have forgotten to share, and exchange ideas. It is important that people not comment on others’ sharing except in a very supportive way.

### Timekeeping

You may use this timetable as an aid to keep the gathering on track. Note that we’ve allowed more time than usual for sharing.

Preliminaries	3 minutes
Opening	2 minutes
Check-in	15 minutes
Reading Round-the-Circle	3 minutes
Silence	5 minutes
Sharing/Deep listening	60 minutes
Discussion	15 minutes
Singing	5 minutes
Closing	2 minutes
Total	approx. 105 minutes

### Preparation for the Next Session

Make sure everyone gets a copy of the preparation sheet for the next session.