

THE FEAST OF *Unleavened Bread*



The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a seven-day festival, with the first and last days being holy days. On these holy days, we rest from work and attend “a holy convocation,” or worship service. This festival comes immediately after the Passover and teaches us how we should respond to Jesus Christ’s gracious sacrifice.

We are to prepare for the Feast of Unleavened Bread by removing physical leaven from our dwellings and diet, which reminds us to remove spiritual leaven—sin—from our lives. During the festival, the focus shifts from ridding ourselves of sin to taking in, or “eating,” righteousness. It is a time to concentrate on putting the righteousness of Jesus Christ (the true “bread of life”) into our lives. The more Christ is living in us and the more we are living righteously, the less opportunity there will be for the leaven of sin to find a place in our lives.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread reminds us that submitting to our Deliverer is the only proper response to Jesus’ sacrifice. We are not saved by good works, yet we’re “created in Christ Jesus for good works” (Ephesians 2:10). A thankful, forgiven Christian will seek His help to avoid returning to the slavery of sin.

DAILY READINGS AND PROMPTS

Use the following prompts for study and reflection on each day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

DAY 1

Read Leviticus 23:6. List three spiritual lessons we can learn from eating unleavened bread (and avoiding leavened bread) over the next seven days. You can draw on lessons you’ve learned in our resources as well as your own lessons from contemplating the meaning of these days.

DAY 2

Read Exodus 12:15. What was God’s penalty for eating leavening during the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Given our understanding that leaven pictures sin, what lesson does this penalty teach us about the consequences of sin? Find one scripture that discusses this penalty of sin and write out some reflections on why God reacts to sin in this way.

DAY 3

Read Exodus 13:3-10 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. Describe in your own words how the contents of these verses foreshadow the Christian calling and life. What specific lessons can we learn about our calling from Israel's experience of leaving Egypt?

DAY 4

Read Matthew 16:5-12. In these verses, Christ discusses the "leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." Read a few of Christ's interactions with the Pharisees and Sadducees in the Gospels (examples: Matthew 22:15; 23:1-36; Luke 6:7; 16:14). After studying some of those interactions, list some spiritual errors these people exhibited that could be described as their spiritual leaven. Considering that Christ warns us to "beware" of their spiritual leaven, what danger do these traits pose to a Christian?

DAY 5

Read 1 Corinthians 5:6. Describe, in your own words, the point Paul is making about sin with this analogy. Meditate further on this analogy and write out ways that seemingly small sins can be spiritually dangerous. Why is a little sin such a big deal? List some examples of sins that start small, but over time grow into much bigger issues.

DAY 6

Read 1 Corinthians 5:7. Paul instructs us to "purge out" leavening from our homes and our lives. What does his choice of wording ("purge out") teach us about our approach to sin? List some examples of how purging out physical leaven reflects how we should purge out spiritual leaven. How does the process of removing leavening and then maintaining an unleavened life during the Feast of Unleavened Bread reflect how we should remove sin and maintain an unleavened spiritual life every day of our lives?

DAY 7

Read 1 Corinthians 5:8. Paul contrasts "malice and wickedness" with "sincerity and truth." Look up and define each of these four words. For malice and wickedness, list several ways those traits can show up in our lives. For "sincerity and truth," list several ways these characteristics can be positively demonstrated in a Christian's life. Why do you think Paul summarized an unleavened life with these two words?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



[Festival Meaning: What Are the Meanings of Each of God's Festivals?](#)



[What Is Leaven and What Does It Picture?](#)



[Feasts in the Bible: Why Should They Matter to Christians?](#)



[What Is Considered Leavening?](#)



[Feasts of the Bible](#)



[The Greatest Story Ever](#)



[Feast of Unleavened Bread](#)



[What Is the Leaven of the Pharisees? \(Luke 12:1\)](#)



[A Little Leaven](#)



[The Bread of Life](#)