

PASSOVER PREPARATION

and Self-Examination



As part of our preparation for the annual Passover, Scripture instructs us to examine ourselves. This period of introspection helps us build our relationship with God and Jesus Christ as we continually grow in understanding of what Christ's Passover sacrifice means to us.

The self-examination process encourages us to look honestly at ourselves as we strive to live like Jesus Christ. Self-examination also helps us determine if our minds are spiritually aligned with God's way or if we have hidden sins that we need to repent of. Repentance involves acknowledging and confessing our sins to God and asking for His forgiveness. We commit to God that, with His help, we will not continue down the path of sinfulness.

We should never take being forgiven for granted. When we participate in the Passover, we are reminded both that we have truly been forgiven and that Jesus Christ's sacrifice was required to make that forgiveness possible.

Here are some key scriptures that will help us prepare for the Passover.

☐ 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

☐ Ephesians 4:13

☐ Psalm 19:12-14

☐ Matthew 5:48

☐ Colossians 1:27-28

☐ Psalm 139:23-24

☐ Romans 6:1-6

☐ 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

☐ Philippians 2:12-13

☐ Hebrews 6:1

☐ 2 Corinthians 13:5

☐ Hebrews 12:1-2

☐ Matthew 23:23

☐ Psalm 26:2

☐ Psalm 51

PROMPTS TO GET YOU STARTED

- 1** In 1 Corinthians 11:27-32, Paul warns against partaking of the Passover in an “unworthy manner.” Meditate on some approaches, both to preparation and to the Passover ceremony itself, that might be unworthy manners. As you give the topic some thought, focus on ways you can avoid these inappropriate approaches.
- 2** In Matthew 5:48, Jesus says our goal is to become perfect, “just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” List and study three characteristics of God revealed in the Bible. Then, for each characteristic, write a paragraph describing how you currently demonstrate that characteristic in your life and specific ways you can improve.
- 3** In Matthew 23:23, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for meticulously tithing but neglecting character issues like justice, mercy and faith. List and meditate on aspects of God’s law that you may be obeying physically (rightfully so!) but neglecting the spiritual intent. Think about and focus on ways you can better balance the letter and the spirit of God’s laws.
- 4** In Ephesians 4:13, Paul writes that one of the most important goals of a Christian is to come to “the unity of the faith.” Meditate on your relationships with other members in your congregation. Are you holding a grudge against any individual? Do you have negative feelings about anyone? List some practical things you can do over the next year to improve your relationships and unity with your spiritual brothers and sisters.
- 5** In Psalm 19:12-14, David lists two kinds of sins: secret sins and presumptuous sins. Study and meditate on these two different forms of sin. What is a secret sin? What is a presumptuous sin? Consider examples of each in the Bible. Then, after you feel you fully understand both, examine your own life and list examples of secret and presumptuous sins that you struggle with. How will you work on those spiritual weaknesses over the next year?
- 6** Study the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:19-23. For each work of the flesh, list one way it appears in your life (hopefully it doesn’t!). For each fruit of the Spirit, list one practical way you can better exhibit that characteristic in your life. Be specific, not general!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



[“Examine Yourselves”: What Does It Mean to Be Disqualified?](#)



[Characteristics of God From Old to New Testament Infographic](#)



[God’s Priorities: The Weightier Matters of the Law](#)



[Spirit of the Law](#)



[Grudges](#)



[The Unity of the Spirit \(Ephesians 4:1-3\)](#)



[Secret Faults and Presumptuous Sins \(Psalm 19:12-13\)](#)



[How to Have a Thorough Self-Examination](#)



[The Benefits of Self-Examination](#)



[Our Passover Self-Exam](#)



[The Fruit of the Spirit](#)



[What Does Repentance Mean?](#)