

Family Activity: An Ice Cream Seder

Supplies:

- Mini marshmallows
- Nuts (*If you have kids with nut allergies, substitute unsweetened chocolate chips*)
- Brightly colored sprinkles
- Sweet syrup toppings *such as chocolate, fudge, butterscotch, or caramel*
- Fruit: *banana pieces, strawberries, blueberries, or other fruit*
- Shredded coconut
- M&M's candies
- Whipped cream
- Vanilla ice cream

Seder Introduction

The Passover meal is all about remembering: remembering God and remembering what God has done for his people.

As the meal unfolds, Jewish parents have a wonderful opportunity to teach their children about God's power and care. But for Christians, a Passover meal (Seder) can be intimidating. Where do you get the recipes? How can you lead something as complicated as a Seder if you've never experienced one? And how exactly do you *pronounce* all those Hebrew words? You can search for all of this information, or you can use the following approach to help your children remember God's work in and through your family using...ice cream!

Hosting an Ice Cream Seder

Place the listed items (except the ice cream) in separate bowls and place them on a table.

Gather your family together and say: **It's easy to forget what God has done for our family. We're so busy getting ready for school, work, or extra activities that we forget to remember all God does for us. Let's see how these foods can remind us of God's love and how he's touched our family.**

Mini-Marshmallows

Pass around the bowl of marshmallows. Say: **Let's each eat a mini-marshmallow. They look like baby marshmallows, don't they? When I remember you as a baby, I always thank God for you. Let me tell you why.**

Share a brief story about each child and how he or she has been a blessing to your family.

Bowl of Nuts or Chocolate Chips

Pass around the bowl of nuts and ask each person to taste one. Say: **Nuts aren't usually sweet. They often taste bitter, and most nuts come in hard shells.** (If using chocolate, say: **Chocolate isn't always soft and sweet; sometimes it's hard and bitter.**) Let's think about some hard or bitter things that have happened in our family.

Share a brief story of a difficult period for your family and how God helped you through it. Invite others to share their stories.

Bowl of Sprinkles

Pass around the bowl of sprinkles. Say: **Pick your favorite color of sprinkle out of the bowl. Sprinkles always look like a fun party to me! What's something fun that's happened in our family—and how did God help that happen?**

Let each family member share a story about a fun family time and how God was present during that time.

Syrup

Invite each person to dip a finger in the syrup topping and lick it.

Say: **These toppings cover ice cream. God's love covers our family, too.**

Share a brief story of a time you felt God's love bringing peace or comfort to your family. Invite other family members to share their stories.

Fruit

Pass around the fruit and invite each person to enjoy a piece. Say: **Fruit is a healthy snack to eat. God has helped bring health to our family, too.**

Remember and share different times when God brought health or healing to someone in your family.

Shredded Coconut

Pass around the bowl of shredded coconut and invite everyone to take a pinch and eat it. Say: **Coconut reminds me of snow—and winter. Each winter we celebrate Jesus' birth. I'm grateful God sent his Son, but sometimes I forget to thank God for that gift. What's something you want to thank God for?**

Pause while family members respond.

M&Ms

Pass around the bowl of M&M's candies. Ask each person to take his or her favorite color of candy and then look at it. Say: **Turn your candy upside down. Now instead of "M&M" it's "W&W"—that reminds me of "Wants & Wishes." God has given our family lots of things we've wanted and wished for, things that go far beyond what we actually need.**

Tell a brief story of something you wanted for your family that God provided, and have family members share similar stories.

Whipped Cream

Place a small dollop of whipped cream on family members' index fingers and invite them to lick off the whipped cream. Say: **Whipped cream is so sweet—and so is God's love.**

Share a story about how God's love has sweetened your life, and let others share their sweet stories as well.

Say: **It'd be a shame to have all these toppings and not enjoy them with ice cream!**

Give each family member a bowl and spoon, and reveal a container of vanilla ice cream. Invite family members to cover their ice cream with their choice of toppings. Before you eat, offer a prayer of thanks to God for your family, and for God working in and through your family.