

Readings for the Feast of Unleavened Bread 2020 Unleavened Bread Lessons

Calvin Lashway
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April 9, Day 1 - Eating Unleavened Bread

God specifically commands His people, in the Old and New Testaments, to eat unleavened bread during the weeklong Feast of Unleavened Bread (Exodus 12:15; 13:6-7; 23:15; 34:18; Leviticus 23:6; Numbers 28:17; Deuteronomy 16:3; 1Corinthians 5:7-8). There are lessons we learn from eating unleavened bread for seven days. Lessons we mustn't forget once the Feast of Unleavened Bread is over.

April 10, Day 2 - Freedom from Sin

When God had brought Israel out of Egypt, He was delivering them from slavery (Leviticus 26:13, All scriptures quoted are from the *New King James Version*). Because of this deliverance, Israel was to eat unleavened bread for seven days each year in remembrance of their liberation from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 13:3, 6-8).

Following the Exodus, Egypt became a symbol representing the "bondage and oppression" of slavery (Exodus 1:14; 2:23, 3:7, 9; Deuteronomy 26:6-7). Not only does Egypt symbolize slavery, but it's also a symbol of sin (Hebrews 11:24-27).

In The New Testament, we see a joining of the themes of slavery and sin. Jesus says, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin" (John 8:34). Once freed from the slavery of spiritual Egypt, we mustn't return to the bondage of lawlessness, which is sin (1 John 3:4, also see Romans 6:1-8, 17-23).

Unleavened Bread Lesson:

Eating unleavened bread is a reminder that once freed from the slavery of sin, we mustn't return to the lawlessness of spiritual bondage.

April 11, Day 3 - Bread of Affliction

Moses refers to unleavened bread as "the bread of affliction" and commanded Israel to eat this bread of affliction for seven days so they would always

remember the day they came out of the land of Egypt (Deuteronomy 16:3). While in Egyptian slavery, Israel suffered affliction (Deuteronomy 26:5-8). Israel's eating of unleavened bread was to help them remember their deliverance from the afflictions of Egyptian slavery.

There is a connection between affliction and sin. Affliction is one of the results of sin. King David says, "Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted. . . . Look on my affliction and my pain, And forgive all my sins" (Psalm 25:16-18). In the Book Jeremiah, God says Israel and Judah's sufferings and afflictions are the results of their sinful behavior (Jeremiah 30:12-15). As we have seen, sin is like slavery (John 8:34), and those enslaved to sin suffer the afflictions of its bondage, with freedom coming through Jesus (See Romans 6).

Unleavened Bread Lesson:

Eating unleavened bread reminds us that once we were the slaves of sin. But now delivered from sin, we're no longer under the affliction of its bondage.

April 12, Day 4 - Obedience to God

As Israel was leaving Egypt, Moses told them they must eat unleavened bread for seven days, with the seventh day being a feast to the Lord. Israel was to do this each year as a reminder of God, bringing them out of Egypt. (Exodus 13:6-8).

Then, Moses figuratively described eating unleavened bread, "as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt" (verse 9 also see Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 11:18-21; Joshua 1:8). Eating unleavened bread was a way for God to help Israel recall that His Law must guide every aspect of their lives: actions, thoughts, and words.

As Christians having a New Covenant relationship with God (Hebrews 9:14-15; Matthew 26:27-28; Luke 22:20); He has written His Law in our hearts and minds through His Spirit, making obedience possible (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26-27; Hebrews 8:8, 10-12; Hebrews 10:15-18).

Unleavened Bread Lesson:

Eating unleavened bread for one week is a yearly reminder God placed within us His Spirit, making obedience to His Law possible.

April 13, Day 5 - Bread of Sincerity

Christians keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread by eating bread without leaven in it, as well as not consuming leavened bread products. The Bible refers to unleavened bread as the "bread of sincerity and truth." In writing to the Corinthian Christians, the apostle Paul says, "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for being hypocrites. He confronts the Pharisees about their hypocrisy by asking "them, 'Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?'" (Matthew 15:1-9). Spiritually the Pharisees were an insincere people who rejected the Truth of God. At one point, Jesus warns His disciples to "beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy" (Luke 12:1).

Unleavened Bread Lesson:

Eating unleavened bread teaches us that we must avoid hypocrisy by living sincere lives of obedience to God.

April 14, Day 6 - Bread of Truth

Not only do we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread with the unleavened bread of sincerity, but also with the bread of truth (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). What is truth? God's word is truth. In speaking with the Father, Jesus says, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17, also see 2 Samuel 7:28).

Unleavened Bread Lesson:

Eating unleavened bread reinforces the fact that we must live our lives guided by the Truth of the Word of God.

April 15, Day 7 - Bread of Life

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "I am the bread of life. . . .If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. . . .He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. . . .He who eats this bread will live forever" (John 6:48-58). Jesus is referring to the Passover symbols of unleavened bread and wine, which represent His body and blood (Matthew 26:17-20, 26-29; Exodus 12:5-11). When thinking of Jesus as the Bread of Life, it seems more suitable to view Him as a thin cake of unleavened bread, than as a puffy loaf of leavened bread. As the Bread of Life, Jesus lives in us, and we live by faith in Him. In Paul's letter to the Galatians, he writes, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Unleavened Bread Lesson:

Eating unleavened bread is a reminder that we must let Jesus live in us by having a continuous faith in Him and His sacrifice.

Summary

Each year there are lessons we learn from eating unleavened bread for one week. Lessons we should remember throughout the coming year. Once freed from the bondage of spiritual slavery and its afflictions, we mustn't return to the slavery of sin. The word of God must be something that guides our thoughts and actions. We have to live our lives in sincere obedience to the truth of the Bible. And finally, it's necessary to have faith in Jesus, allowing Him to live His life in us.