

Partaking of the Passover at Home Member Guidelines 2021

While it is our desire for our COGWA brethren to attend the in-person Passover service for 2021, we are providing these guidelines to assist those who will need to take the Passover at home.

The Passover service should begin at or shortly after sunset on Friday, March 26. Only baptized members of the Church should actually partake of the Passover. If parents desire to have their teen or another unbaptized member of the family watch the service, that is their choice.

Members who are not able to attend their local in-person Passover service may use one of the following options for the Passover service:

1. Many COGWA congregations will have a live webcast from their local pastor.
2. There will be a “Passover” link at the cogwa.tv website that all members can access.
3. Members can download the Passover video at this site: [Passover 2021 Video](#). We suggest members download this *in advance* of the Passover to use just in case they cannot access the Internet from their home Passover evening.

This video will have a number of “*please pause here*” sections, where the video will need to be paused for foot washing, blessing and consuming the bread, blessing and consuming the wine, and singing a hymn at the end.

Of course, members should also have a copy of the “Passover at Home” document, which gives instructions for taking the Passover, with scriptures to read and further instructions on blessing the bread and the wine. This can be used if use of the video is, for any reason, not feasible.

Below are additional guidelines to assist members in preparing for the Passover:

Preparations before the Passover service: Prepare in advance the table where you will watch/partake of the Passover. If you do not have a white linen tablecloth, there is no need to purchase such. A nice, clean tablecloth, where available, will do.

Be sure to have a small amount of unfortified red wine. Usually red wine has an alcohol content of 11 to 14 percent. Most wines have sulfites, but that doesn’t affect the fact that it is wine.

Pour a small amount of wine into a glass (or glasses, depending on the number of members taking the Passover) in advance of the service and set it (or them) on the table.

It would be best to have the bottle that the wine came from in another room, as only the wine that is to be blessed should be at the table where the Passover is partaken.

Place a small piece of unleavened bread on a small platter and set it on the table. Even if only one person is taking the Passover, the bread should still be broken after the blessing is asked.

It is advisable to have the water, basins and towels for the foot washing readily available before the webcast/service begins.

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Foot washing: If those attending are husband and wife, they can, of course, wash one another's feet. Other male/female family members may also choose to wash one another's feet, if they are comfortable with such. If three people are present, they can alternate, thus washing one another's feet.

If only one person is partaking of the Passover, there would be no foot washing. The Church has advised that only baptized members participate in the foot-washing portion of the service. It is not a problem if you have no one's feet to wash. The washing of feet is not essential to partaking of the Passover symbols of bread and wine if no other member is present.

Bread: Once the bread has been prayed over, break it into a few small pieces. Those present should then consume the unleavened bread.

Wine: Once the wine has been prayed over, consume that small bit of wine.

Disposal: Please dispose of any wine or bread that was blessed but not consumed. If the bread cannot be burned, disposing it through the garbage disposal or in the regular garbage is fine. The main concern is that it not be used or consumed by anyone.