



Walking God's Paths



4. Season of Freedom, Season of Rebirth

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of your own memories, as either a child or an adult, of preparing for or celebrating Passover or Easter. What are some customs observed in your family that you associate with the feast? How does the celebration of the day relate to your identity as a Jew or a Christian?
2. The video mentions some differences and similarities in the major Christian and Jewish springtime rituals. Did any of these strike or surprise you in some way? What would you most like to know about the other community's practices?
3. Both communities' rituals seek to make present today the foundational moments of their faith traditions and also to pass on their stories and identities to the next generations. How does this occur in your own community? What impresses or puzzles you about the other community's customs?
4. The video referred to Christian assaults on Jews over the centuries that occurred during the Passover/Easter season. What factors triggered these occurrences? What have been their consequences? How can the future be different?
5. Christians usually feel quite at home at Jewish Passover observances (to the extent of sometimes inappropriately using seder rituals in Christian congregations), while Jews often feel uncomfortable and perplexed at Easter Triduum liturgies. Why do you think this is? On the other hand, the video noted that both communities' springtime rituals share in their distinctive ways the themes of thanksgiving, liberation, new life, and messianic hope. Is it desirable and how would it be possible to encourage Jews and Christians to respect such commonalities-with-differences in one another's acts of worship?