

BREAKING BADNESS

choosing goodness

an interfaith prayer service



Jewish-Christian
Discovery Center



Catholic Church of
St. Ann



HERITAGE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Breaking Badness, Choosing Goodness

An AT HOME interfaith liturgy

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Preparation

- Gather in a quiet, thoughtful place where all who are involved can sit together easily, such as a dinner table or living room area.
- Purchase matzah in advance.
- Materials needed for the sweet dessert (see suggested recipes below).
- Bring a whole piece of matzah for each person and a plate or bowl.

Part 1

- **Leader:** Bread is a blessing to our lives. Bread can feed us, nourish us and make us healthy and strong. But just like we can feed on things to make us healthy and whole, we can feed on the wrong things that can make us broken and hurt us. Things like being unkind, judging others, speaking untrue things about others, being selfish or having hatred in our hearts. Today our goal is to participate in a special activity that will remind us to break the cycle of all the wrong things we feed on and to choose to remake our relationships, our thinking and our community, so we are all happy and whole.
- Each person takes a piece of matzah and breaks it in half. (Place one half aside for later.)
- Go around the group, breaking off a piece of matzah and placing it into the communal bowl as you individually say:
 - **For the times that I have hardened my heart against others.**

- Break piece and repeat, going around the table*
 - **For the times that I have gossiped or talked poorly of others.**
Break piece and repeat, going around the table
 - **For the times that I thought I was better than others**
Break piece and repeat, going around the table
 - **For the times I have disliked or hated others.**
Break piece and repeat, going around the table
 - **For the times I have judged others.**
Break piece and repeat, going around the table
 - **For the times I have not loved my neighbor.**
Break piece and repeat, going around the table
 - **For the times I have turned a blind eye to those in need.**
Break piece and repeat, going around the table
 - Add any of your own moments of weakness that you would like to symbolically break. “For the times I [fill in the blank].”
- Take this moment to discuss as a family how these actions and attitudes can harm others.
- Now your family will decide how they would like to forever rid themselves of the “badness” or broken matzah. Options include, but are not limited to:
 - Burying it
 - “We bury these broken pieces, which are symbols of our brokenness because we have no desire to resurrect them.”
 - There is a Native American tradition of “burying the hatchet,” where a weapon is buried in the ground as a sign of peace and reconciliation. In the same way, we bury our fear and anxiety, our prejudice and judgment, our anger and resentment – all the weapons we use to harm others, and pledge never to raise them up again toward others.
 - Throwing it away or putting it in a garbage disposal
 - “Let us throw off everything that hinders us and the sins that entangle us and trip us up.”
 - Burning it
 - “As fire cleanses, so cleanse us, oh Lord, from our past offenses, mistakes and brokenness.”
 - Throwing it in a river or lake
 - “Cleanse us, oh God, from our sin; wash us clean from all that defiles us.”

Part 2

- Return to your original family meeting place and take the other half of the matzah.
- **Leader:** We have made known our mistakes and brokenness, but now we come together, with your help, oh Lord, to choose to remake and repair the

pieces of our past and choose goodness. Help us in our future choices and promises to do our best to love you and love our neighbor.

- With the remaining half of the matzah, go around in a circle (or back and forth, if there are only two participating) and break off a piece and place it into the bowl or plate, as you say the following:
 - **I promise/choose to love my neighbor.**
Repeat, going around the table
 - **I promise/choose to not be judgmental toward others.**
Repeat, going around the table
 - **I promise/choose to open my heart to others.**
Repeat, going around the table
 - **I promise/choose to speak kindly and lovingly of others.**
Repeat, going around the table
 - **I promise/choose to see the value in others.**
Repeat, going around the table
 - **I promise/choose to work for fairness for all.**
Repeat, going around the table
 - **I promise/choose to advocate for those in need.**
Repeat, going around the table
 - **I promise/choose to see others' needs above my own.**
Repeat, going around the table
 - **I promise/choose to respect the differences in people as gifts of God.**
Repeat, going around the table
 - **I promise/choose to appreciate the gift of life in all forms and faiths.**
Repeat, going around the table
 - Add any of your own promises or choices. "I promise/choose [fill in blank]."
- **Leader:** Let us now complete the following words and actions
Breathe in God's grace, God's mercy, God's peace;
Exhale our feelings of fear, of anger, of hate;
Breathe in God's kindness, God's generosity, God's patience;
Exhale our prejudice, our indifference, our selfishness;
Breathe in God's hope, God's joy, God's love;
Exhale all that is stale and poisonous in us;
Breathe in God's Spirit, God's light, God's life.
Exhale the serenity and shalom-ness of God back into the world.
- Now that the second half of the matzah is in pieces, your family will decide how they would like to remake, repair, or recreate the matzah into a new, sweet recipe. The goal is to take the flavorless and broken matzah and make it sweet, whole and new just like we are promising to do with our choices and our lives.

- Recipe options include, but are not limited to:
 - Matzah toffee: <https://www.marthastewart.com/333841/matzo-toffee>
 - Apple matzah kugel: <https://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/apple-matzo-kugel-104862>
 - Dark chocolate banana matzah brei: <https://whatjewwannaeat.com/dark-chocolate-coconut-banana-vegan-matzah-brei/>
 - Lemon cheesecake with matzah and almond crust: <https://www.food.com/recipe/passover-lemon-cheesecake-with-almond-crust-362386>
 - Caramel matzah crunch: <https://www.davidlebovitz.com/chocolatecover/>
- Once the recipe is complete, come together again as a family and eat what you have prepared and discuss how you can add loving actions into your lives this week. Suggestions include, but are not limited to:
 - Making a jar of positive actions that your family can complete together each week.
 - Making a pledge and putting it on your fridge.
 - Visiting a temple/synagogue or mosque.
 - Visiting a civil rights or Holocaust museum, etc.
- We invite you to take photos or videos of your family completing this ceremony or your finished recipes and email them to Rabbi Slomovitz, at drabraham@therabbijesus.com, with the Jewish Christian Discovery Center.

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