



Welcome to Spark, the Tribe weekly parsha activity sheet for Children's Service Leaders across the United Synagogue communities.

Thank you for offering to run a service, for all the hard work that you put into it and for making a real difference to so many young people. The US is very proud of the numerous Children's Services that are run every week across the UK and this would not happen without you.

Spark gives you an overview of the weekly parsha, a song, an activity, discussion questions or D'var Torah linked to the parsha or important event that week. Every Children's Service will be different, in terms of how many participants there are, their age range, its length and the varying abilities of the children. Please read through the document and find the activities that will best suit the needs of your group. It is advisable to read it before Shabbat in case there is some preparation that may be needed in advance.

I hope you and the children at your service will benefit from Spark. Please be in touch if you have any queries, feedback or if we can be of any help. Thank you again for your amazing work.

With best wishes,
Sharon Radley

PESACH 5779

A pinnacle moment in the history of the world is when God spoke the Jewish Nation on Mt Sinai. The very first words that He uttered there were, "I am The Lord your God Who took you out of Egypt." Why would God choose to use this as His introduction? He created the world! He didn't just take us out of Egypt! He created Egypt and everything in it!

If God had described Himself as The Creator, the Jewish people may have thought He was above it all, too holy and lofty to bother Himself with the mundane activities of humans. He's not going to lower Himself to save a small nation of slaves. God says, I took you out of Egypt! I am involved in your lives! I didn't just create you! I am with you and care about you. I was the One who took you out of Egypt and you are never alone!

Pesach is known as the "holiday of freedom," commemorating the Jewish Exodus from Egypt following 210 years of slavery. Pesach is regarded as the "birth" of the Jewish nation, and its lessons of struggle and identity continue to form the basis of Jewish consciousness 3,300 years after the event.

Activity: Pesach round up!

The information below can be used as the basis of a quiz. Make sure if you do decide to have a quiz that it's inclusive and fair. Think through carefully before your service to decide if a quiz is a suitable activity for the dynamics of your group and how you will split the teams evenly, fairly and sensitively.

- Pesach lasts for eight days. The first two and last two days of the Chag are Yom Tov where no work is permitted (see below for more details) and on the intermediate days, known as Chol Hamoed, essential work is permissible.

- In Israel, Pesach lasts for seven days. There, the first and last days are Yom Tov and there are five intermediate days of Chol Hamoed.
- The 'work' that is prohibited on Yom Tov is the same as that prohibited on Shabbat apart from several melachot such as cooking, baking, transferring fire and carrying - under certain circumstances. When Yom Tov falls on Shabbat, all Shabbat restrictions must be observed.
- The Torah commands us to eat unleavened bread, matzah, during Pesach and forbids the eating or owning of chametz. We also may not derive any benefit from Chametz.
- Chametz is formed when dough made from wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt is allowed to ferment (or rise). The time in which fermentation takes place is deemed to be 18 minutes. Not only are all bread products considered chametz, but any products containing these ingredients will be unsuitable for Passover. To ensure that a product is kosher for Pesach, it must carry a reliable kosher hechsher. Even though the ingredient listing may appear suitable for Passover, it is possible that traces of chametz from previous productions will still be present on the equipment. It is also worth mentioning that only matzah made especially for Passover may be used during the festival. Round-the-year matzah is not made to the strict guidelines required for Passover and therefore should not be used.
- In order to ensure that our homes and possessions are free of chametz we clean our homes and then carry out four different tasks relating to the removal of chametz. We carry out 'Bedikat Chametz, Bi'ur Chametz, Bitul Chametz and Mechirat Chametz.

- On the evening of the fourteenth of Nisan, after nightfall, we carry out a search using a feather and a candle. Prior to the search we recite a special brachah. This search is Bedikat Chametz. Any chametz that is found is burned the next day, the morning of erev Pesach. This is called Bi'ur Chametz.
- After we search for chametz and burn the chametz we make a declaration. This declaration which starts with the words' Kol Chamira' is written in Aramaic but can also be recited in English to make sure it is understood. The declaration states that any chametz that is in one's possession, which has not been seen and one is not aware of its existence should be annulled and be considered as insignificant as the dust of the earth. This is called Bitul chametz – annulling of chametz. If one owns a large stock of chametz and it would be wasteful to burn it, one may sell it to a non-jew. This sale called Mechirat chametz, is legally binding. It is usually carried out by a rabbi on behalf of his community. After Pesach, any products which were not consumed are repurchased. The ability to sell one's chametz is a good example of the flexibility of Jewish law and the rabbis' desire to find ways to make our life as easy and pleasant as possible. All chametz that is to be sold should be securely put away and kept locked up over Passover to avoid unintentional use.
- One must stop eating chametz after roughly a third of the day on Erev Pesach. Refer to the US website for the exact time.
- One of the most important parts of Pesach is the Seder. The Seder is celebrated on the first two nights of Pesach (in Israel, on the first night only). The Seder is designed to give each Jew the experience of 'going

from slavery to freedom' where the family gather together with friends and guests and children are of particular focus.

- The text of the Seder is written in the Hagadah and consists of 15 steps which are conducted in a systematic way throughout the evening to ensure that all the mitzvot of Pesach are performed properly. In fact, the very word Seder means order! Questions are encouraged throughout the Seder and it is important to ensure that the children are kept interested and involved. The order of the Seder is:

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| Kadesh | Recite the Kiddush |
| Urechatz | Wash the hands before eating karpas |
| Karpas | Eat a vegetable dipped in salt water |
| Yachatz | Break the middle matzah and hide the larger part for Afikoman |
| Magid | Narrate the Pesach story of the Exodus from Egypt |
| Rachtzah | Wash the hands prior to the meal |
| Motzi and Matzah | Say Hamotzi and the special bracha for the matzah and then eat the matza |
| Maror | Recite the blessing for the eating of the bitter herbs |
| Korech | Eat the sandwich of matzah and maror |
| Shulchan Orech | Serve and eat a festive meal |
| Tzafun | Eat the Afikoman which had been hidden throughout the Seder |

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| Barech | Recite Birchat Hamazon (Grace after Meals.) |
| Hallel | Recite the Hallel (Psalms of praise) |
| Nirtzah | Pray that God accepts our mitzva |

- The Seder preparations should be made in time for the Seder to begin as soon as the synagogue services are finished but the Seder should not start until nightfall.
- We place items of symbolic significance on the Seder plate and we use them and refer to them throughout the Seder:

These items are:

Z'roa – A roasted bone. To remind us of the Pascal lamb that was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem on the afternoon before Pesach. Its meat was roasted and eaten at the Seder.

Beitzah- A roasted hardboiled egg to remind us of the Korban Chagigah, the festival offering which was also bought to the Temple on the eve of Pesach.

Maror and Chazeret – Bitter Herbs are eaten twice during the Seder. Once by themselves and the second time with matzah. Customarily people use romaine lettuce for the Chazeret and whole or grated horseradish for Maror.

Karpas- A vegetable such as celery, radish or parsley which will be dipped in salt water and eaten.

Charoset – The bitter herbs are dipped into Charoset which is a mixture of grated apples, nuts, cinnamon, and red wine. The Charoset has the appearance of cement to symbolize the work of the Hebrew slaves.

Three matzot - are placed either inside the Seder dish or placed one atop the other, separated by a cloth or napkin. Matzah is eaten three times during the Seder, by itself, with Maror and as the Afikoman. Each time

there is a minimum amount that must be eaten, so enough matzot must be available to enable each participant to receive a proper portion. During the Seder everyone drinks four cups of wine corresponding to the four expressions of freedom mentioned in the Torah. Everyone should have their own cup which holds the correct amount. A main part of the Seder is the telling of the history of the Jewish people during the maggid section of the Hagadah.

We recount our history from the early days of Avraham through to Yaakov settling in Egypt, the slavery, the ten plagues and how Moshe finally led the Jewish nation out of Egypt and the miracles that took place at the Red Sea. The story is in the Maggid section of the Hagadah and of course in the Torah. Use a Chumash or Hagadah to prepare your questions for this part of the quiz.

Activities:

Note: The activities below have not been separated into year groups – choose the ones most suitable for your participants. They can be played on Yom Tov or on the Shabbat before Pesach in preparation.

- **Chametz**

1. Hide pictures of chametz. Split the children into groups and give them a minute to 'hunt for the chametz'. When the time is up the winning group is the one with the most pictures. Use the pictures to open up a discussion on what chametz is.
2. Send a child out of the room and hide a picture of an item of chametz. Call the child back into the room and ask the children to call out 'hotter' or 'colder' depending on how near the child is to the object.

3. Give the children pictures of chametz and non- chametz items. Ask the children to sort the pictures into the two groups. You could split the children into teams and give each team a copy of all the pictures. The team that sorts them out correctly in a given time are the winners.
4. Download the sale of chametz form from the US website: <http://www.theus.org.uk/sellmychametz>. Show it to the children and explain what it is all about.

- **Seder**

1. Divide your room into the sections of the Seder. At each location put either a task, a reading or a question and directions to the next stop. Include cards with the name of the section at each location for the children to collect. Split the children into groups and direct them all to a different starting location. Explain that all the locations are the parts of the Seder but they will not be visiting them in the correct order. At each location they will have an activity and will need to collect a card with the name of that section. When they have visited every location they should arrange their cards in the correct order of the Seder, (See overview for information.) If you have parents at your service you could ask them to take care of the stops.

Examples of questions, discussion points or activities for some of the stops:

*A maze – children use their fingers to trace their way from slavery to freedom.

*Draw two Pharaohs with about ten differences between one and the other. Children need to spot the differences.

*The Seder is one of the most important times to invite guests to our home. If they could invite anyone to come to their Seder who would it be and why?

*Build a pyramid out of bricks, Lego or any stackable items.

*Create a Hillel sandwich out of materials you have prepared in advance or their own imaginary ideas. Children should provide a reason for including each item just as Hillel did. For example – sea salt – to recall the parting of the Red Sea.

*Each child should say which plague would they least like to experience and why?

*What is their favourite part of the Seder and why?

*Sing each verse of Dayenu in a different way. For example whispering or rapping it.

*How many Pesach 4's can you think of?

2. **Discuss:** Do you see yourself as one of the four sons or do you think you have a little bit of each one in you? Are there certain times when you feel exactly like one of the four sons? Do you behave differently in the presence of certain people such as friends, family members or teachers?

3. Play 20 questions: Prepare in advance some paper crowns or headbands for each child or several children. On each one write a name of a character from the story of Pesach or the Hagadah. Remember we start the story in the Hagadah from Avraham. Put a crown on a child without letting them see the name that is written on it. That child will need to ask twenty questions to the rest of the group to guess who their character is. The rest of the group are only

permitted to answer 'yes' or 'no'. Characters could be: Pharaoh's daughter, Rabbi Eliezer, Moshe

4. Ask a child to act out Mrs. Pharaoh trying to convince her husband to LET THE JEWS GO!
5. Pesach voicemail: What message would Moshe (or choose someone else) have left on his voicemail as he led the Jewish people out of Egypt?
6. Discuss: Maror – reminds us of the bitter times we had in Egypt. Did you ever have a time when something not very pleasant happened to you? How did you feel at the time? What did you do to change things? How do you feel when you think about it today? What lasting impression did it make on you? (No participant should feel pressurised to contribute to this if they don't want to.)

- **The Ten Plagues**

1. Split the children into groups. Ask each group to prepare a skit of a TV news programme that is taking place at the time of the ten plagues. The reporters should interview both Egyptians and Hebrews and ask them questions about the plagues. Some of the children can dramatize the plagues and the slavery during the interviews.
2. Cut out ten pieces of card. On one side list or draw a plague and on the other write a letter. Hide the cards and also hide a pretend

Afikoman. The Afikoman should be hidden very well and the cards in slightly more obvious places. The children should be told to go and look for the cards. Eventually they will realise that if they arrange the cards in the correct order of the plagues the letters at the back will form the location of the hidden Afikoman. All the children can either nominate one child to retrieve the Afikoman or all go and find it together. This will avoid a 'winner' situation.

Order of the plagues:

Blood, frogs, lice, wild animals, pestilence, boils, hail, locust, darkness, and plague of the first-born.

3. During the plagues there was a lot of crazy weather. Ask a child or children to give a weather report from Egypt during that time.
4. Who can say the plagues/ order of the Seder backwards?

- **General Pesach Games**

1. Play 'Just a minute'. Chose a child to speak for a minute without hesitation, deviation or repetition about a topic related to Pesach. Any child who hears the speaker deviate, repeat or hesitate should put up their hand and challenge the speaker. If the challenge is correct that child should finish the remaining seconds. The child that completes the minute wins the round.
2. Create a 'feely bag'. Fill a bag with interesting items related to Pesach. Pass the bag around and each child should pick out an item and say how it is related to Pesach. Examples could be: a scrubbing

brush, a feather, a teddy bear (plague of wild animals) a picture of a multi coloured coat (Josephs coat), ping pong balls (hail), plasters (boils), plastic grasshoppers, frogs, sunglasses (darkness)...

3. Discussion: Freedom – if you had to choose one image of freedom what would it be and why? Ask participants to think for a minute. (Car keys? Nelson Mandela?)

4. I helped prepare for Pesach and I cleaned.....

Sit the children in a circle and ask one child to start a sentence saying, 'I helped prepare for Pesach and I cleaned..... 'They should complete the sentence with something that they helped to clean. The next child should repeat the sentence and add an item of their own. The third child should do the same so that they will now be saying three items. Play continues around the circle. If a child forgets one of the times they are 'out'.

SONGS:

- Sing the songs found in the Hagadah either on the Shabbat before Pesach as a rehearsal for the Seder or at your Pesach Yom Tov services. Participants can teach each other the tunes they know. You may also like to include songs from **Hallel** at your service. Explain that on the first two days of Pesach we say full Hallel during the morning service in shul. Hallel means praise and is the name of the group of psalms we sing to praise God. During Chol Ha'Moed – the intermediate days we only say half Hallel which is a shortened version of Hallel. On day 7 and 8 we still only recite half Hallel. Normally on Yom Tov we would recite all of Hallel as it's a joyous occasion and we are happy that we

escaped from slavery in Egypt but because these days are also the anniversary of when the Egyptians drowned in the sea we moderate out happiness and sing less. Although the Egyptians were treating the Jews badly they were also God's creatures.

A few more....

Just a tad of charoset – to the tune of 'Just a spoon full of sugar'

Chorus: Just a tad of Charoset helps
The bitter herbs go down,
The bitter herbs go down, the bitter herbs go down.
Just a tad of Charoset helps
The bitter herbs go down,
In the most disguising way.

Oh, back in Egypt long ago,
The Jews were slaves under Pharaoh
They sweat and toiled and laboured through
The day.
So when we gather Pesach night,
We do what we think right.
Maror, we chew,
To feel what they went through.

Chorus

So after years of slavery
They saw no chance of being free.
Their suffering was the only life they knew.

But baby Moses grew up tall,
And said he'd save them all.
He did, and yet, we swear we won't forget.
That.....

Chorus

While the Maror is being passed,
We all refill our water glass,
Preparing for the taste that turns us red.
Although Maror's just so strong,
At the Seder it belongs but what's to do?
It's great to be a Jew!

- **A Few of My Passover Things** - to the tune of 'These are a few of my favourite things'

Cleaning and cooking and so many dishes
Out with the chametz, no pasta, no knishes
Fish that's gefillted, horseradish that stings
These are a few of our Passover things.

Matzah and karpas

And chopped up charoset

Shankbones and kiddush

And Yiddish neuroses

Tante who kvetches and uncle who sings

These are a few of our Passover things.

Motzi and maror

And trouble with Pharaohs

Famines and locusts

And slaves with wheelbarrows

Matzah balls floating

And eggshell that cling
These are a few of our Passover things.

When the plagues strike
When the lice bite
When we're feeling sad
We simply remember our Passover things
And then we don't feel so bad.

- **Who Knows One? Ask the children to perform actions to this song.**

Who knows one? I know one!
One is Hashem, one is Hashem, one is Hashem....
In the heavens and the earth.
Who knows two?
Two are the luchot that Moshe brought
Chorus: One is Hashem, one is Hashem, one is Hashem....
In the heavens and the earth.
Who knows three?
Three are the fathers
Four are the mothers
Five are the books of the Torah
Six are the books of the Mishna
Seven are the days of the week
Eight are the days before a Brit Milah
Nine are the months before a baby is born
Ten are the Aseret Hadibrot
Eleven are the stars in Yosef's dream
Twelve are the tribes of Yisrael
Thirteen are the midot of Hashem.

- **Don't Sit on the Afikoman - To the tune of 'Gory Glory...'**

My dad at every Seder breaks a matzah piece in two
And hides the Afikoman half - a game for me and you
Find it hold it ransom for the Seder isn't through
'till the Afikoman's gone

Chorus:

Don't sit on the Afikoman
Don't sit on the Afikoman
Don't sit on the Afikoman
Or the meal will last all night

One year Daddy hid it 'neath a pillow on a chair
But just as I raced over, my Aunt Sophie sat down there
She threw herself upon it – awful crunching filled the air
And crumbs flew all around

Chorus

There were matza crumbs all over – oh it was a messy sight
We swept up all the pieces though it took us half the night
So, if you want your Seder ending sooner than dawn's light
Don't sit on the Afikoman

Frogs - Sung to the tune of 'Zip a dee Doo Dah'

Frogs on his nose now
Frogs in his hair
My oh my
There were frogs everywhere
Plenty of jumping

All around his bed
Pharaoh was feeling
Frogs round his head

Mister bullfrog on his shoulder
It's the truth
It's frightenin'
All these plagues are knuckle whitenin'
Frogs on his toes now
What do you say?
Terrible feeling
Terrible day.

- **The Four Sons - To the tune of: 'Oh my darling'**

Said the father to his children, "At the Seder you will dine"
"You will eat your fill of matza,
You will drink four cups of wine."
Now this father had no daughters,
But his sons they numbered four.
One was wise and one was wicked,
One was simple and unsure.
And the fourth was sweet and winsome,
He was young and he was small,
While his brothers asked the questions,
He could scarcely speak at all.
Said the wise son to his father,
"Could you please explain the laws?
Of the customs of the Seder,
Could you please explain the cause?"
And the father proudly answered,

"Every man himself must see,
In every age and generation
As if he himself were freed."
Then the wicked son said wickedly,
"What does all this mean to you?"
And the father's voice was bitter as his grief and anger grew.
"If yourself you don't consider as a son of Israel,
Then for you this has no meaning,
You could be a slave as well."
Then the simple son said simply,
"What is this?" and quietly,
The good father told his offspring,
"We were freed from slavery."
And the youngest son was silent
For he was not very bold.
But his eyes grew wide with wonder
As the Pesach tale was told.
Now dear children heed the lesson
And remember ever more
The good father and his children
And his sons that numbered four.

It's a Long Way ... To the tune of 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary'

It's a long way to Har Sinai
It's a long way to go
It's a long way to Har Sinai
To a place that we don't know

Goodbye to Mitzrayim
Goodbye King Pharoah
It's along long way to Har Sinai
But that's where we'll go.