

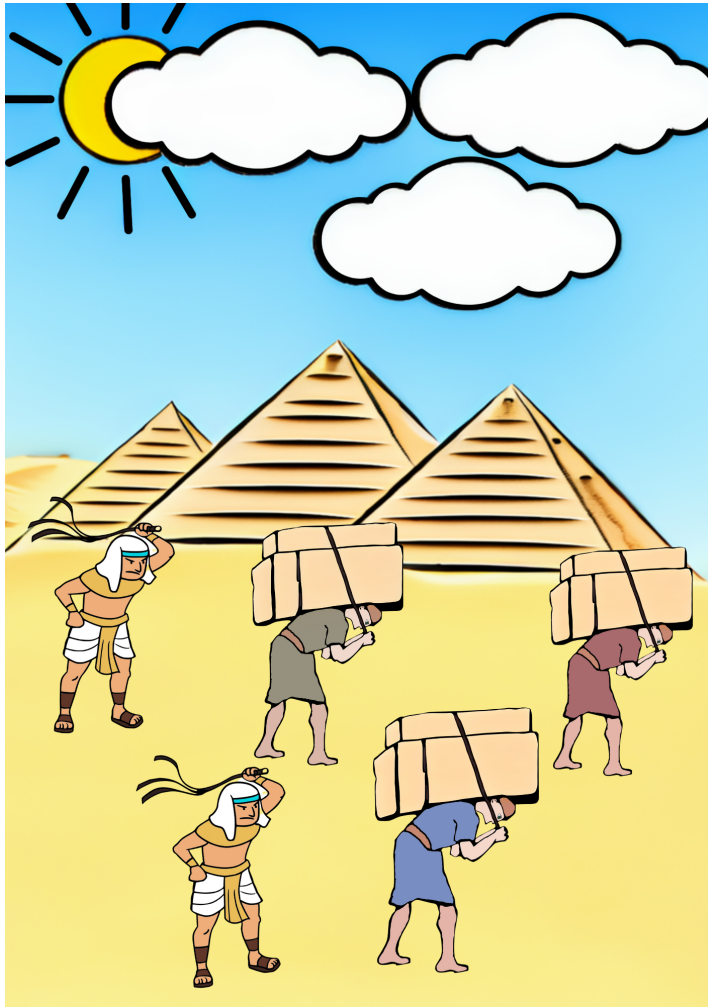
## Introduction to Passover

What does Passover mean?	It means to skip over. Like skipping over a crack in the sidewalk.
What does Pharaoh mean?	A mighty King
What does Israelites mean?	God's chosen People
What is Egypt?	A land where people live
Who are the do Egyptians?	The Egyptians are the people who live in the land of Egypt
What is a slave?	Slaves are people owned by other people. Slaves have to do every thing that their owners tell them to do. Slaves they have to work very hard.

God called out to Moses one day, and said to him, "I have seen how the Egyptians are treating my Chosen people. I have heard their cries, and seen their sufferings. I have come down to rescue them and bring them out of Egypt

to the Promised Land. I want you to lead my people." Moses said, "I am not up to the task". But, God told him that He would be with Moses. You see, when we trust and believe in God, God gives us the strength and resources to accomplish His will."

So Moses and his brother Aaron went to see the Pharaoh of Egypt, and Moses said, "God says to send forth His people!" But Pharaoh said No! Pharaoh worried about who would do all the hard work in Egypt, making the bricks and mortar, and building the buildings and roads? The Egyptians in the land did not want to do the hard labor. They wanted their slaves, the Israelites, to do it instead!



So, Pharaoh said No! We should never say "No" to God. God is our Creator and our Father. God knows what is best for each one of us. We need to show respect and love to God at all times. So God punished Pharaoh and the Egyptians each time Pharaoh said "No!"

Pharaoh was a hard hearted man, who did not want to do what God said. We should never have a hard heart, but always be willing to serve God with joy and gratitude. Did you know that the Pharaoh said "No" to God ten times? But, after each plague, God gave the Pharaoh the opportunity to say yes, but Pharaoh thought he was god, and would not listen. There is only One God, the God of Israel. We should always listen to God with an open heart and mind.



Praying brings us closer to God.

When we listen to God, we have fellowship with Him. As children of God, we want to be close to God in His loving embrace.

Below are the ten plagues that Pharaoh said No to:

1st Plague: God turned the water to Blood. So that there was no drinking water, no water to bathe in or to wash their dishes. The smell was terrible!

2nd Plague: God sent frogs. The frogs were everywhere. In the food, the water, the beds and all over the ground! They made so much noise. So then Pharaoh said, "I will let you worship your God tomorrow." But when tomorrow came, he said No! Pharaoh lied. We should never lie. Satan, who opposes

God, is the great deceiver and liar. Truth is what God values in each of us. God is Truth. Truth shows our love to God. So never be afraid to tell the truth.

3rd Plague: Gnats. There were gnats everywhere and they covered the people and animals. They got into their noses, eyes, and mouths. Everyone was miserable! Yet, Pharaoh said No!

4th Plague: Swarms of Flies. There were flies everywhere—in the food, the water, all over the people and animals, and even in their beds. The people and the animals were miserable, all except for the Israelites who lived in Goshen, whom God protected from the flies. Pharaoh summoned Moses and told him that he would let the people go if God took away the flies, but he lied again!

5th Plague: Death of livestock. God sent a terrible plague on Egypt. He killed all their livestock: horses, donkey, camels, herds, and flocks. But he did not kill the livestock of the Israelites. But still Pharaoh said No!

6th Plague: Boils. The Egyptians and their animals suffered terribly from the boils, which were festering sores that covered their bodies. Still Pharaoh said No!

7th Plague: Hail. Then God warned Egypt to bring their people and animals into shelter, because the next day He would send hail. Anyone caught outside would die. The next day there was a big storm like had never ever been experienced before. Lightning and hail struck and shattered the trees, plants, and killed any livestock left in the fields. Anyone who went outside that day was killed, except for the Israelites in Goshen. Yet, the Pharaoh said No!

8th Plague: Locusts. The locusts covered the land, they ate up the remaining food from the hail storm, the trees, the plants and the grass. They were in everyone's homes and food and water—it was disgusting. Still Pharaoh said No!

9th Plague: Darkness. There was a darkness that covered the land of Egypt which was so dark that you could feel it. No one could see another, that was

how dark it was. Yet the Israelites, God's chosen people, had light. Still, Pharaoh said No!

The 10th Plague: God gave a final warning to the Pharaoh: If you don't send forth My people, I will kill the firstborn boy of each family, and the first born of all your livestock. Now, Pharaoh had a son, but he still refused God. He didn't think God could do it, but God can do anything, for He is the Creator of all things! But Pharaoh said No!

The 10th Plague is very important, because God gave the Israelites instructions on how to save their firstborn children from this plague. These instructions were for the "Passover" experience.

God told Moses to instruct His people on how to save their firstborn from this plague:

1. This is the Statute of the Passover:
2. This month is to be the first month of your year
3. Each family must select a lamb or a goat, one animal per family, if the family is small they can share an animal with a neighbor closest to them.
4. The lamb or goat must be 1 year old and be unblemished with no broken bones
5. On the 14th day you will slaughter the animals as a community at twilight
6. Take some of the blood and put it on the 2 doorposts and the lintel of the houses where you eat this meal.
7. You are to roast the meat and eat it that night with Unleavened Bread and Bitter Herbs
8. Any leftovers must be burned before morning
9. None of you may go out of the house until morning
10. You must be dressed for travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand
11. You are to eat it in a hurry
12. It is the LORD's Passover
13. It is God's Statute and Commandment and the Appointed Festival is to be kept every year, generation from generation

Now at midnight, God passed over the homes with the blood on their doorposts and their firstborn children were saved from God's wrath. But in the

homes of those who did not have the blood of the lamb on their doorposts, their firstborn died that night. So it was that a mighty cry was heard throughout Egypt, as the families mourned the deaths of their firstborn.

A grief-stricken Pharaoh summoned Moses, and told Moses to take his people and their livestock and leave Egypt at once! The people grabbed their belongings and their unleavened bread. But because God gave the Israelite people such favor with the Egyptians, whatever they asked from the Egyptians, they gave them. So they were given clothing, gold, silver, gems and other valuable items. Everything is God's to do with as He sees fit. So the Israelites fled Egypt before the Egyptians could change their minds.



The Israelites are Saved from Egypt!

We find that in Exodus 14, Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he decided to go after the children of Israel! So he took his chariot and his people. He also took 600 of the best chariots and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over them.

The Egyptians overtook them camping by the Red Sea and when Pharaoh came near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes and saw the Egyptians. They were very afraid and they cried out to the Lord. Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid! Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which HE will accomplish for you today."

God told Moses to go forward, lift up his rod, and stretch out his hand over the sea and divide it. The children of Israel went through the midst of the sea on DRY GROUND! The Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. God gave the children of Israel victory and saved them that day from the Egyptians.

Now, every year, we retell the story of God's deliverance!

## The Haggadah

The Passover Haggadah (הַגְּדָה, pronounced hah-gah-DAH) is the guidebook to the Passover evening meal (Seder). It comes from the word Le-ha-geed, which means "to tell." This guide containing ancient Biblical texts, as well as some very old Jewish literature, all of which come together to recreate the story of Passover.

The Haggadah walks the users through the 15-step Seder experience, providing instructions, as well as texts to read and discuss.

In the Haggadah, you will read about all the different elements you see on the seder plate below. There are many Haggadot, from very plain to very decorated and expensive. They all contain the same steps to retell the story of Passover.

Discover the elements of the Passover Seder below.

# What's on the Seder Plate?

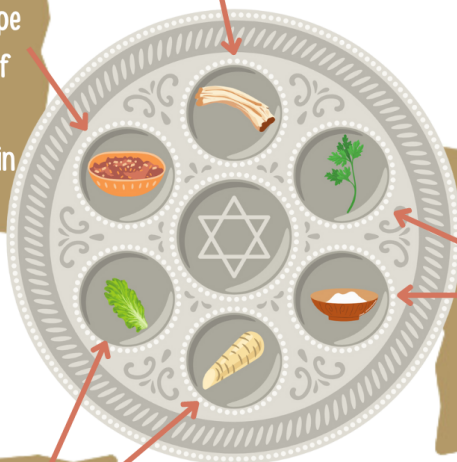


Zeroah- Shank  
Bone- Reminds us of  
the Korban Pesach  
(Passover Sacrifice).

Hazeret- A mixture of  
apples, nuts and grape  
juice- Reminds us of  
the hard labor of  
building structures in  
Egypt.

Karpas- Parsley-  
Reminds us of the  
sadness of being slaves.  
The salt water we dip  
the parsley in symbolizes  
our tears.

Maror- Can be  
horseradish or lettuce-  
Symbolizes the  
bitterness of slavery.



Caption