

The Family Haggadah

By

Uncle Zally / Zalman Velvel



The Family Haggadah

Introduction

This Haggadah was created because our family wanted to make the holiday of Passover more interesting and vibrant to our children, grandchildren, and guests. The traditional Passover Haggadah, and the seder that resulted from it, did not engage them. The Passover experience was becoming a chore, and that needed changing.

We have to admit it felt sacrilegious to even think about changing the Haggadah. We imagined our Orthodox Hasidic Rabbi rolling his eyes, poking fun at our chutzpah when he found out. When we finally got up the courage to tell our Rabbi of our plan, he surprised us by showing little surprise, and informed us that many people have written haggadahs. We felt further encouragement when a friend showed us his unique haggadah written by Kibutz Sasa in Israel in 1949.

So we began the project by taking the existing haggadah, one page at a time, and outlining the ideas and the actions. Then we wanted to introduce changes that would stimulate our children and our children's children. While we wrote, we had one eye on the computer keyboard, and one eye looking up, waiting for His objection. You know Who's objection we mean.

To our great relief, we finished the outline of the traditional haggadah without lightning parting our scalps. The outline showed a methodology and a powerful symbolism that we appreciated. We also concluded that from the standpoint of telling a story out loud, it could be adapted with a greater understanding of the pressure that flat chairs can exert upon young round tuchuses. Many modern day children have difficulty maintaining interest for two hours simply listening to words read out loud. The motivation engendered by the search for the Afikomen worked well in the days before tv, movies, video games, and the Internet, but many children nowadays must have their thoughts, feelings, and imagination constantly involved, or they will leave the table, or worse - stay and cry.

We then read through the Torah and outlined five basic commandments regarding Passover: 1- allow no leaven in your house, 2- eat matzah for 7 days instead of bread, 3 - do not work on the 1st and 7th day, 4- tell your children the story of leaving Egypt, and 5- slaughter a lamb with no blemishes the day before, roast it,

then eat all of it the first night in Jerusalem, along with matzah and bitter herbs, and break no bones in it, (The last group of commandments is not followed completely in modern times, but one day hopefully it will be again, Baruch Hashem.) We were surprised once again to discover the actual story of the Exodus in the Torah was quite rich in human terms. The 10 plagues and the interaction between God, Moses and Pharaoh was dramatic, and we could use the underlying passion and wisdom behind that story to ignite the hearts and imaginations of young Jews.

As we continued forward, we humbly asked God for His help in using whatever talents we had to help make the Passover Seder more meaningful to a young 21st century Jew. We wanted to retain the blessings and as many of the rituals as possible, but we also wanted to add more excitement, to reach all those "5th sons" out there, the ones that were not even at the Passover seder.

Much credit is given to my wife, Tziporah, who during our last "traditional" seder surprised us all by having the grandchildren rain down little rubber frogs and locusts, and put on masks of animals, to animate the plagues. While she did this, the interest of everyone at the seder, both children and adults alike, perked up considerably, and this fact was not lost on us. As a result, we added additional symbols for the plagues, more questions for the children besides the traditional four, and a dialogue between Moses and Pharaoh that was acted out by the adults. Our goal was to get everyone at the seder table involved, and by that, we mean all the adults and all the children.

Please accept "The Family Haggadah" with our love and appreciation of the Jewish religion and our Torah. Also, please understand that at the creation of every tradition, even a 3,000 year old one, there was a change from what came before. History shows the Jewish religion reveres both tradition, and change, as long as the intention is to remain holy. That intention is imbued in "The Family Haggadah." We would be honored if this haggadah was used a stepping stone to inspire Jewish families to enjoy the traditional one even more.

Zalman Velvel ben Yisrael Yaakov

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The Family Haggadah

List of Components

Seder Table

Wine and Grape Juice

Wine Glasses

Matzahs and Matzah plate

Napkin to cover Afikomen

Cereal bowls for water

Salt

Karpas (celery or boiled potatoes)

Charoset (mixture of fruit and nuts)

Jar of Horseradish or raw horseradish

Tomato juice - small can

Clear glass pitcher

Plates with hard boiled egg, celery, horse radish, charoset, and roast shank bone

For Children

Little rubber Frogs

Life rubber Locusts

Animal masks

Big and little kosher marshmallows

Black Jelly beans

For Adults

Pillow for leader of seder

Small towel for Pharaoh

Staff for Moses

The Family Haggadah

[All the glasses around the table are filled with wine or grape juice. The person who is leading the Seder, stands, raises his glass and says, and then everyone repeats:]



Blessed are You, oh Lord, our God, King of Universe, creator of fruit of the vine.

[The leader drinks a quarter of the glass, as do all others. The leader says:]

Children, as you can see, we are celebrating something special tonight. Together, I would like you all to ask us out loud the following question:

[The children of all ages now say together:]

Children: Why is this night different from all other nights?

This night is different for a few reasons. The first reason is we are gathered here tonight to tell you the story of our Exodus from Egypt. It is a powerful story about the first time in the history of the world when three million people experienced God together. They saw with their own eyes the great miracles that God can make, and they heard God at Mount Sinai, received the ten commandments and the Torah, our Bible, from Him, and were made a holy people.

[The Leader, still standing, raises his glass and says, and then everyone repeats:]

Blessed are You, oh Lord, our God, King of Universe, who has made the Jewish people Holy.

[The leader drinks another quarter of the glass, as do all others, then remains standing and says:]



God has commanded the adults sitting here today to tell you, our children about this Exodus. This Passover Seder is our way of telling you that story.

[The leader, still standing, raises his glass and says, and then everyone repeats:]

Blessed are You, oh Lord, our God, King of Universe, who has given us Festival Days.

[The leader drinks another quarter of the glass, as do all others. The leader, still standing, then says, and then everyone repeats:]

Blessed are You, oh Lord, our God, King of Universe, who has preserved us, sustained us, and brought us to enjoy this season (shechianu).



[The leader drinks the final ¼ of the glass, as do all others. All the glasses are refilled. The leader now sits down, leans against pillows, and the youngest present asks:]

CHILD: Why are you laying back on pillows?

If a child did not know, there would be five different ways of finding out, depending on the type of child. A **wise child** would say:

[Call on one of the children and have them say, or read if they are able to:]

CHILD: I don't know why you are laying back on pillows, but I would like to learn.

And we will teach the wise child. If a **simple child** were there, the simple child would say:

[Call on one of the children and have them say, or read:]

CHILD: What's going on here? Are you talking to me?



And we will teach the simple child. If a **child who doesn't even know how to ask a question** was there, the child would say:

[Call on one of the children and have them say, or read:]

CHILD: Ah ... ah huh?

And still, we will teach the child who doesn't even know how to ask the question, why I am reclining on pillows. If a **rebellious child** were there, and we would ask why I am reclining on these pillows, the rebellious child would say:

[Call on one of the children and have them say, or read:]

CHILD: Leave me out of this. I didn't want to be here in the first place.

And still, we will try to teach the rebellious child, if that child will agree to sit still and learn. We will also caution the rebellious child that this kind of attitude separates them from the people that love them.

There was a wise man who added that there was still another child, a **fifth child**, who is not even here at the seder. To those fifth children, we would say:

[Call on one of the children and have them say, or read:]



CHILD: Please come to our seder, and be a part of the Jewish people.

And we will try to teach the fifth child, if that child will also agree to sit still and learn along with us. We will also caution the fifth child that this kind of attitude separates them from the people that love them.

To all our children here, we say: [All the adults say]

ADULTS: Listen, children, and you will learn. If you have questions, ask, and we will try to answer."

[The leader continues:]

I am laying back now on pillows to celebrate the fact that all of us here are free people. We are not slaves. Do any of you children know what we mean by a slave?

[Call on the youngest child, and then go around the table and ask all the children:]



A slave is a person who is bought and sold, like an animal. A slave is a person who belongs to another person and is ordered what to do each day. A slave is a person with no freedom. Is there anyone here who would choose to be a slave?

We are lucky today in that everyone here is a free person, but this was not always the case. More than 3,000 years ago, our forefather, Jacob and his family were living in Israel where there was no rain, and without rain, they could grow no food. The Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, said to Jacob:



[Call on one of the adults, have them put a towel on their head, and say:]

PHARAOH: Jacob, bring your family and come live with us and I will give you the best of all of the land of Egypt.

[The leader continues:]

The Pharaoh did this because Joseph, one of Jacob's 12 sons, took very good care of Egypt for the Pharaoh. So our forefather Jacob and his family came down to Egypt, to the land of Goshen, and there was plenty of food, like we have today.

[The leader uncovers the three matzahs, holds them up, and says, and then everyone repeats:]



Let all those who are hungry enter and eat with us. Let all those that are in distress, come and celebrate Passover with us.

[The leader puts down the matzahs, takes the middle one, breaks it in half, puts one half back between the two matzahs, and wraps the other half in a napkin, now called the **Afikomen**. The leader stands and holds up the Afikomen and says:]

Children, this is the Afikomen, a special matzah. I am going to hide it during this seder. The child who finds it at the end of the seder, will have to negotiate with me for a reward, a reward I will give to all of you children for its return (or you can have the children hide the Afikomen from the parents.)

[The leader sits down and continues reading:]

But now let us return to the story of our Exodus where the Jewish people were prospering in the land of Goshen. They grew from a family of 70, into thousands, and then into hundreds of thousands, and then they became millions. New Pharaohs



arose who did not like the Jewish people, and they turned us from free people into slaves. Jews were forced to work all day long building cities for the Pharaohs, and if they complained, they were beaten. We were given little food to eat. We cried about our slavery to God. For hundreds of years, we cried to God like this:

[Call on one of the adults and have them say:]

SLAVE: Help us, God! Please, God, help us! Take us out of this terrible land, away from this cruel Pharaoh, and make us a free people once again.

[The leader stands again and says:]

We will all get up now and pour water over our hands for the next part of the seder. I will also need some water and small bowls for the table.



[The leader and everyone gets up from the table and washes their hands. The leader brings back a small pitcher of water. During this time, it would be appropriate to hide the Afikomen. When the leader returns, he prepares the saltwater and Karpas, and then says:]

I am placing water in a bowl and adding salt to it. Then I am going to dip a vegetable into the salt water, which we call Karpas. I am going to pass it out to everyone here. When we all have a piece of Karpas, we will all say the blessing together, dip it in the salt water, and eat it.



[The leader says and then everyone repeats:]

Blessed are You, oh Lord, our God, King of Universe, Creator of the fruits of the earth.

[The leader calls on a child to say:]

CHILD: Why did we just dip the vegetable in salt water and then eat it?

The answer is the vegetable reminds us that Spring is here and new life will grow. The salt water reminds us of the tears our people cried when they were slaves, when the Egyptians treated us badly, afflicted us, appointed harsh taskmasters over us, and laid heavy bondage upon us.

[The leader raises up the bitter herbs, the Maror, and says:]



These are bitter herbs, which are the only herbs we will eat tonight.

[The leader calls on another child to ask:]

CHILD: Why on other nights do we eat any kind of herb, but on this night, we eat only bitter herbs?

The answer is that God commanded us to eat bitter herbs on Passover, and we believe that God did this to remind us of our bitter slavery under the Egyptians.

[The leader raises up the charoset and says:]

I am going to mix the bitter herbs with charoset, a mixture of fruit and nuts now.

[The leader calls on another child to ask:]

CHILD: Why are you doing that, mixing the two things?

I am doing this to remind us of how we mixed the clay to make the bricks used in the Pharaoh's cities, and how hard the Jewish people slaved in Egypt. We will eat the bitter herbs and charoset later, but now we will return to our story.



God heard the cries of the Jewish people, and He saw our affliction, our sorrow, and our oppression. He recalled the **promise** He made many years before to Abraham, Jacob's grandfather, and Jacob's father, Isaac, and to Jacob himself. God told them that their family would one day be strangers in a land that was not theirs, and they would be slaves to the masters of that land for hundreds of years. But God **promised** Abraham and Isaac and Jacob that he would always help their children.

[The leader stands, raises his glass, and says, and then everyone repeats:]



ADULTS: And it is that promise from God to our forefathers that sustained us, for not only has one nation risen up against us, but in every generation, others have risen up against us, but the Holy One, blessed be He, has always delivered us out of their hands. Baruch Hashem.

[The leader drinks a third of his 2nd glass, as does everyone else. He then sits back down and says:]

God sent Moses and his brother, Aaron, to talk to Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. Pharaoh was a powerful man, so powerful that he thought he was a God. I am going to appoint someone now to read for Moses, and someone to read for Pharaoh.



[The leader appoints two adults, or older children, to speak for Moses and Pharaoh. Moses should speak with humility, and hold a shepherd's staff, while Pharaoh should speak with arrogance and wear a small towel around his head. If there are more than two adults, they should be switched when noted. The leader continues:]

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh's palace. When they were in front of Pharaoh, Moses said:



MOSES: God sent me to you, saying, "Send out my people so they may serve Me."

And Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: No. They will serve me.

And then Moses said:

MOSES: If you do not listen to God, then He will take the water in the River and change it to blood. The fish that are in the water will die and the River will become foul, and Egypt will get sick from trying to drink the water from the River.

And then Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: I do not care. I am Pharaoh, Ruler of all Egypt, and I do not listen to your God.

Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh. God then told Aaron to take his staff and stretch it out over the waters of Egypt. When Aaron did this, all the rivers, canals, reservoirs - all the Egyptians gatherings of water turned to blood, even the water that was in their wooden and stone vessels.



[The leader now pours some tomato juice into a clear glass picture of water]

All the fish died and the River became foul and the Egyptians could not drink the water because it had all turned to blood. **This was the 1st plague.** Moses waited seven days, then he went back to Pharaoh and said:

MOSES : God has sent me to you, again, saying, "Send out my people so they may serve Me."

And Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: No. They will serve me.

And then Moses said:

MOSES : If you do not listen to God, then He shall make the River swarm with frogs, and the frogs will go out from the River and come into your palace and your bedroom and your beds, and the houses of your people will be filled with frogs.

And then Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: Do not threaten me. I am Pharaoh, Ruler of all Egypt, and I do not have to listen to your God.



So God told Aaron to take his staff and stretch it out over all the rivers, canals, and reservoirs of Egypt, and raise up all the frogs over the land of Egypt. Aaron did this and frogs covered the land.

[The leader has the children take paper frogs and throw them.]

This was the 2nd plague. After it, Pharaoh summoned Moses and said:

PHARAOH: Ask your God to remove the frogs from me and my people, and I will send out the Jewish people so that you may make offerings to your God.

And Moses said:

MOSES: Very well. I will ask God to send out the frogs, and only in the River shall they remain, so that you will know there is none like God.



The next day, all the frogs died, except in the River. The Egyptians piled them up into heaps.

*[The children pick back up the paper frogs, with the adults helping. At this point, **the leader switches Pharaoh and Moses** if there are more than two adults.]*

Pharaoh was relieved to see the frogs go, but he did not keep his word to let the Jewish people leave Egypt. God now told Aaron to take his staff and strike the dust of the land, and when he did this, all the dust became lice. There was lice throughout all Egypt, on man and beast.



[The leader has children take tiny kosher marshmallows and throw them.]

This was the 3rd plague. After this plague, Pharaoh still did not let the Jewish people go.

[The children pick up the tiny kosher marshmallows, with the adults helping.]

So God told Moses to go back to Pharaoh and say:

MOSES : God has sent me to you, again, saying, "Send out my people so they may serve Me."

And Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: NO! They will serve ME!

And Moses said:

MOSES : If you do not listen to God, then He has commanded that there will be swarms of wild beasts, and the houses of Egypt will be filled with these swarms. There will be no swarms of wild beasts in the land of Goshen, and you will see that God distinguishes between the Jewish people and Egyptians.

And Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: Go away and stop bothering me. I am Pharaoh, Ruler of all Egypt, and I do not listen to your God.



So the next day, God sent wild swarms of beasts to the house of Pharaoh and of his servants, and the land of Egypt was being ruined by the swarms.

[The leader had the children take paper animals and throw them, or put on masks of animals and make sounds of wild animals.]

This was the 4th plague. Pharaoh summoned Moses and he said.

PHARAOH: If you stop the swarms of these wild beasts, the Jewish people can go and bring offerings to your God, but you must be back in 3 days.

And Moses said:

MOSES: I will ask God to stop the swarms.

The next day, God did what Moses asked and stopped the swarms of wild animals from around the Pharaoh and his servants.

*[The children pick back up the paper animals, with the adults helping, or take off the masks. **The leader switches Moses and Pharaoh** if there are more than two adults.]*

But after God did this, Pharaoh again changed his mind, and would not let the Jewish people leave. God once again sent Moses to Pharaoh, and Moses said:

MOSES : God has sent me to you, again, saying, "Send out my people so they may serve Me."

And Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: NO! THEY WILL SERVE ME!

And Moses said:

MOSES : If you do not listen to God, then He has commanded that there will be a severe epidemic and all the livestock in Egypt will die - all the horses and cattle and donkeys and camels. And God will distinguish between the livestock of the Jewish people and the Egyptians, because not a thing that belongs to the children of Jacob will die.

And Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: Leave me! I am Pharaoh, Ruler of Egypt, and I do not listen to your God.



The next day, God killed all the livestock of Egypt, and not one animal died that belonged to the Jewish people. **This was the 5th plague.** Still, Pharaoh did allow the Jewish people to leave. So God told Moses and Aaron to take handfuls of furnace soot and hurl it heavenward in front of Pharaoh.



[The leader has the children to take little black kosher jelly beans and throw them into the air.]

God made the soot into dust that settled over the land of Egypt, and boils and blisters erupted on man and beast. **This was the 6th plague.** Still, Pharaoh did not allow the Jewish people to leave.

[The children pick up the little black jelly beans, with the adults helping.]

So God once again sent Moses to Pharaoh.

MOSES: God sent me again to tell you, "Send out my people so they may serve Me."

And Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: NO! They will not serve your God. They will serve me!

And Moses said:

MOSES: God said He could have obliterated you and all of Egypt, but He allowed you to live to show you His strength, so that you will know there is none like Him in all the world. If you do not listen to God and let the Jewish people leave, then He has commanded that there will be a heavy hail such as there has ever been in Egypt. All the animals and people that remain in the fields will die when this hail falls upon them.

And Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: What you are saying means nothing to me. I am Pharaoh, Ruler of all Egypt, and I do not listen to your God.

So the next day, God told Moses to stretch out his staff toward heaven, and God sent thunder.



[The leader appoints an adult to make sounds of thunder.]

And God rained huge hail down upon Egypt.

[Have the children throw big kosher marshmallows into the air.]

Anything that was in the fields was killed. All the trees and grasses were smashed by the hail and burned. **This was the 7th plague.** Only in the land of Goshen was there no hail, where the Jewish people were.

Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and he said to them:

PHARAOH: You have proved to me that I have sinned. God is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones. If you have God stop the thunder and hail, the Jewish people can go and never return.

And Moses said:



MOSES: When I leave your city, I will spread out my hands and ask God to stop the thunder and hail.

Moses left Pharaoh's city, and then asked God to stop the thunder and hail, and it ceased.

*[The adult stops making thunder, and the children pick up the big marshmallows, with the adults helping. If there are more than 2 adults, **the leader once again switches Pharaoh and Moses.**]*

But after God did this, Pharaoh again changed his mind, and would not let the Jewish people leave. God once again sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh. Moses said:

MOSES: God has sent me to you, again, saying, "For how long will you refuse to be humbled before Me? Send out my people so they may serve Me!" If you do not listen to God and let the Jewish people leave, then He has commanded that there will be a locust swarm that will cover the face of the earth and it will consume everything, even what was left over from the hail. The locusts will fill all the houses of Egypt, a swarm such that has never been seen in all the history of Egypt.

And Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: I am tired of your threats! I am Pharaoh, and I do not listen to God!

So Moses raised his staff over the land of Egypt and God sent an east wind that blew through the land, all that day and all that night. On the following morning, a locust swarm ascended over the entire land of Egypt.

[The leader has the children take paper locusts and throw them.]



There was never a swarm like it before, and never has been one like it since. The locusts ate everything - no greenery remained on the trees or the grass of the field in all of Egypt. **This was the 8th plague.** Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and he said to them:

PHARAOH: I have sinned to God and to you. Please have God stop these locusts!.

Moses left Pharaoh and asked God to stop the locusts. God sent a west wind through the land and it carried the locust swarm to the Red Sea. Not a single locust remained.

[The children pick up the paper locusts, with the adults helping.]

After the locusts were gone, Pharaoh still refused to let the Jewish people go. So the next day, God told Moses to stretch forth his hand toward the heavens, and God sent a thick darkness throughout the land of Egypt for a three day period.



[Make the room dark by having an adult cover the lights.]

No man could see his brother or rise from their place for three days. **This was the 9th plague.** Only in the land of Goshen was light, in the homes of the Jewish people.

*[Make the room light again by uncovering the lights. If there are enough adults, **switch Moses and Pharaoh again.**]*

Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and he said to them:

PHARAOH: Go! Serve your God! Only your cattle, sheep, and children must remain.

And Moses said:

MOSES: We must take our children, and all our cattle and sheep with us, because our children must learn how to serve God, and make offerings to Him.

Pharaoh became angry, and he said:

PHARAOH: You are insolent! Now you can not leave my land! EVER! And the next time you see my face, **YOU SHALL DIE!**

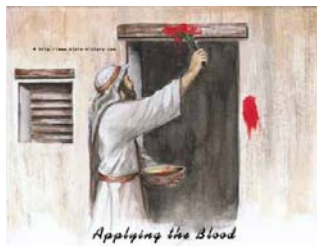
And Moses said:



MOSES: You have spoken the truth. I will never see your face again. But let me tell you one final thing that God told me to tell you. He is going to send one more plague against Egypt, **the 10th and final plague**. At midnight, God is going to kill the 1st born of all of Egypt, the 1st born of Pharaoh, the 1st born of all his servants, and the 1st born of all the beasts. But the Jewish people will have no 1st born harmed.

And Pharaoh said:

PHARAOH: I do not care what you say, Moses. I am Pharaoh, Ruler of Egypt, and I do not listen to your God **AND I WILL NOT LET THE JEWISH PEOPLE GO!**



Then God commanded Moses to tell each Jewish family to slaughter a lamb for their first Passover Seder, and take the blood of the lamb and place it on the doorposts and lintels of their houses. God would see the blood and pass over the houses of the Jewish people. He would go only to the houses of the Egyptians and kill their 1st born.



The Jewish people obeyed and put lamb's blood around their doors, as God commanded. **At midnight, God passed over the homes of the Jewish people**, and He went to the houses of the Egyptians, where all the 1st born of Egypt, including Pharaoh's 1st born, were killed. **There was not a house in Egypt that did not have a dead body in it.**

Pharaoh sent word to Moses and Aaron:

PHARAOH: Go! Get out of my land! Take all of the Jewish people, your children, your sheep and cattle with you. I never want to see the lot of you again!

[Now have the adults alternate the reading of one paragraph each]



The Jewish people hurried and gathered their belongings and left. They picked up their bread dough before it was leavened and rose, and carried it with them. **The Jewish people were finally free!**

When the Jewish people left Egypt, they camped by the Red Sea. Once again, Pharaoh changed his mind, and he regretted letting them go. Pharaoh harnessed his chariot, then all the chariots of Egypt, and the entire Egyptian army, followed behind Pharaoh to the Red Sea to kill the Jewish people.



The Jewish people saw the Egyptians coming and they were afraid, but God said to Moses, "Lift up your staff and stretch your arm over the sea and split it." The Red Sea then split and the Jewish people crossed over it on the river bed, as if it were dry land, with a wall of water on each side of them. **This was one of the greatest miracles the world has ever seen.**

When all of the Jewish people were on the other side of the Red Sea, Pharaoh and the Egyptian Army ran along the river bed after them. God then told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, and the water will go back upon the Egyptians." Moses did this, and the water came back and covered the chariots and the horsemen and the entire army of Pharaoh, and they all drowned. There remained not a one of them alive except Pharaoh. God did not want Pharaoh to die so he could tell the rest of the world of the miracles that God made.



Then, fifty days from the time of the first Passover seder, God brought the Jewish people to Mt. Sinai. Moses went up to Mt. Sinai where God gave him the Ten Commandments, and our Torah, with all the other commandments.

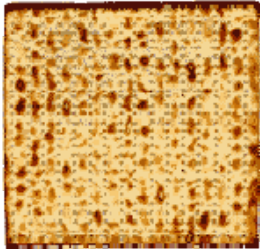


In our Torah, God commanded the Jewish people to remember the Passover celebration for all time. He commanded us to rid our homes of all the leaven, anything that contains yeast, and for a seven day period, we only eat unleavened

bread, which is called matzah. And God commanded that each family should teach their children the story of our Exodus from Egypt, like we are teaching you now.

[Now the leader calls on a child to ask:]

CHILD: Why did God command us to eat only matzah, flat unleavened bread, when the rest of the year, we can eat regular bread?



The answer is we believe God did this to remind us that when we had to leave Egypt, there was not enough time to wait for the bread to rise.

We all have to wash our hands now before we say more blessings for Passover.



[The leader and everyone else stands, goes to wash, and says the prayer over washing]

Blessed are you, oh Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments, and commanded us to wash our hands.

[When everyone returns, the leader stands and holds up the two matzahs and the broken one, and says the following blessings, which everyone repeats afterwards:]



Blessed are you, oh Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Blessed are you, oh Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments, and commanded us to eat unleavened bread.

[The leader puts down the matzahs and holds up the bitter herbs again, and says:]



Blessed are You, oh Lord, our God, King of Universe, who has sanctified us by Your commandments and commanded us to eat bitter herbs.

[The leader sits back down, and breaks up the matzahs, places some of the charoset combined with the bitter herbs on each piece, and passes it around for everyone to eat.]

So God brought us forth from Egypt, with a strong hand, and great terror, and with signs and wonders.

So children, how many plagues were there?

[10] WATER INTO BLOOD ... FROGS ... LICE ... BEASTS ... DESEASE ... BOILS ... HAIL ... LOCUSTS ... DARKNESS ... SLAYING OF THE 1ST BORN.

[Call on one of the children and ask the question:]

So why is this holiday called Passover?

[Because God passed over the houses of the Jewish people, sparing their 1st born.]

[The leader stands, raises his cup and everyone says out loud:]

EVERYONE: And in every generation, each individual, and everyone sitting here tonight, is bound to regard themselves as if they had personally gone forth from Egypt along with our people, more than 3,000 years ago. And we are bound to thank, praise, glorify, exalt and revere our God, who brought us forth from slavery to freedom, from sorrow to joy, and gave us our Book of Life, the Torah. Let us all therefore say:

"Hallelujah!" "Hallelujah!" "Hallelujah!"

[The leader, still standing, raises his cup and says, and then everyone repeats:]



Blessed are you, oh Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who has redeemed us and our ancestors from Egypt and brought us to the enjoyment of this night, to eat matzah and bitter herbs.

[The leader finishes the final third of the 2nd cup.]

[Now, the meal is served.]



[After meal, have children find the Afikomen and bargain for it. The piece of matzah set aside earlier is eaten as "desert," the last food of the meal. Different families have different traditions relating to the Afikomen. Some have the children hide it, while the parents have to either find it or ransom it back. Others have the parents hide it.]



[Fill 3rd cup of wine, then **do the Grace after meals blessing**. At the end, a blessing is said over the third cup and it is drunk.]

[The fourth cup is poured, including a cup set aside for the prophet Elijah, who one day will herald the world of the Messiah. The door is opened for a while for Elijah.]

[The leader stands, raises his cup, and says:]



Children and family and friends, we have completed the Passover Seder. Though we celebrate it this year in our home outside of Israel, we hope to celebrate Pesach in Jerusalem next year, with all our fellow Jews and the coming of the Messiah.

NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM !

[The leader drinks ½ of his cup of wine, and then says:]

Hag samayach Pesach!
Happy Passover!

[The leader finishes his cup of wine. At this point, the children may leave the table or stay. The adults may choose to discuss what Passover means to them, personally, and perhaps discuss the concepts of freedom and slavery in their everyday lives.]