**GROWING TOGETHER:** FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Session 2 of 4

# Passover

### MEETING AIM

To understand the importance of God saving his people in Egypt.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Exodus 11-12

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your particular situation.

Many years before the birth of Jesus, God’s people were enslaved in Egypt. They were treated horribly and God was not pleased. This session deals with the culmination of God’s rescue plan. The last plague resulted in the Israelites being allowed to leave. The Passover festival, celebrating this rescue, was central to the people of God. Whenever they turned back to God, they celebrated Passover. And Jesus uses the powerful symbols of the festival to help his followers encounter the new covenant. Help children realise the importance of the Passover, both in the Bible and to them now.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Ask the children if have they ever been rescued. Tell them a personal story or a story about someone you know that has been rescued in some way.

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** logos (printed on paper or on PowerPoint)

Before the session, find logos that the children might recognise; for example CBBC, Captain America, Audi, or the Olympics. Print them out (or put them on a PowerPoint slide) and ask the children to guess as many logos as they can in a certain amount of time. If you’re online, share your screen so that everyone can see.

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** the script below

Read the following retelling of part of the story using a mixture of Bible verses and script. You could ask fellow leaders to perform, or get the children involved! When the words in bold are read out, get the children to do the action for each word (see below).

**Instructions:** make a list

**Sign:** arms crossed in an X

**Rescue:** sound of a trumpet

**Remembrance:** point one finger to the side of your head

**Narrator:** God had a rescue plan to save his people. God said to Moses…

**God:** I will strike Pharaoh and the land of Egypt with one more blow. After that, Pharaoh will let you leave this country.

**Narrator:** God’s **rescue** plan begins…

**God:** At midnight, I will pass through the heart of Egypt. All the firstborn sons will die in every family in Egypt.

**Narrator:** While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the Lord gave the following **instructions** to Moses and Aaron for his **rescue** plan.

**God:** Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice.

**Narrator:** The next set of **instructions**…

**God:** *Encourage the children to mime these actions as they’re read out.* Be fully dressed, tuck your cloak into your belt, wear your sandals and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the Lord’s Passover.

**Narrator:** God has some more very specific **instructions**…

**God:** Take some of the blood from the lamb and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of your houses. That same night, roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad and bread made without yeast. On that night when I see the **sign** on the doorframe, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt. This is part of my **rescue.**

**Narrator:** This was a special day to **remember**…

**God:** This day to remember each year is called the Passover. Celebrate this Festival of Unleavened Bread, for it will help you **remember** that I brought you out of the land of Egypt on this very day. This was my **rescue**. Your children will ask: “What does this ceremony mean?” And you will reply: “It is the Passover when God passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt.”

**Narrator:** God has **rescued** his people! Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night.

**Pharaoh:** Get out! Leave my people and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Take your flocks and herds and be gone. Go, but bless me as you leave.

**Narrator:** That night the people of Israel left Egypt. There were about 600,000 men,plus all the women and children. They baked flat cakes from the dough without yeast because the people were driven out of Egypt in such a hurry that they had no time to prepare the bread or other food!

This part of God’s **rescue** was complete! God had given the Israelites **instructions** to follow. They used the blood of the lamb to paint the **sign** above their doors, so the special **rescue** could take place. This is worth **remembering**,don’t you think?

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Ask the children these questions, making sure everyone has the chance to contribute:

* What surprises you in this story?
* Is there anything you don’t understand?
* Do you think God still rescues his people?

### CREATIVE TIME – 10 mins

**You will need:** a sedar plate with a lamb bone, hard-boiled egg, horseradish, charoset (various recipes can be found online, including some nut-free), parsley and romaine lettuce, together with *matzos* to represent the flat bread

Before the session, prepare a sedar plate (more information can be found [here](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/1608/jewish/The-Seder-Plate.htm)). Share the different elements with the children. Explain that even today, people remember how God set them free from slavery by sharing this meal together. Invite the children to taste different parts of the meal, talking about the things that it represents, about the flavours and textures and about why it is so important to still remember what God did for his people that day. (You will need to check for food allergies before the session.)

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** *Matzos* or pitta bread (make sure you have a gluten-free option if you need it)

Lay out some pitta bread on a plate. Ask the children to each take and eat a little piece of bread. In small groups, ask the children to thank God for his rescue plan, for the Israelites and for his people today. Help the children to think of and name someone who doesn’t yet know about Jesus and his great rescue.

**SAS CUTTING**

is an experienced children’s and youth worker, and art teacher.