**FIRST STEPS TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Session 2 of 4

# Passover

### MEETING AIM

To discover how God set his people free.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Exodus 11-12 (Exodus 5-10)

### 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.

The story of the Passover is rich with symbolism and promise. There are some elements to this story which are more difficult to share with children, particularly those who are so young. But to miss these elements from the session fails to faithfully pass on the stories that we have been given. It is important during this session that time and space is given for children to ask their own questions about the story, as they begin to make sense of it and discover more about who God is and what he has done for us.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Ask the children about their week – have they done anything fun? Chat about any memorable mealtime they have had this week.

### PLAY – 10 mins

**You will need:** a selection of small-world play toys along a ‘rescue’ theme, such as police, fire and medical play figures and vehicles; playmats

Spend some time playing together with the children, re-enacting different ‘rescue’ situations, as initiated by the children. As you play, talk about the different ways that these people save others and invite the children to share their own experiences, as appropriate.

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

Remind the children of the previous story, where God chose Moses to help set his people free and rescue them from slavery in Egypt. Explain that as you share the story, you will introduce some simple actions for them to join in with. Tell this story:

God had a plan to set his people free. He told Moses about his plan. He gave him messages to take to the pharaoh – the king in a place called Egypt. Moses told Pharaoh again and again about God’s messages, but he wouldn’t listen. Pharaoh did not want to let God’s people go free.

God gave Moses one more message: “I am going to give Pharaoh and his people one more warning. One more chance to set my people free. You must tell my people to do exactly what I say. I will rescue my people.”

Moses went to the pharaoh and passed on God’s message. He told Pharaoh that if he didn’t let God’s people go free, the eldest son in every family would die. Pharaoh would not listen to Moses. He would not listen to God.

Moses went to God’s people and passed on God’s message. He told them to do exactly what God said. God’s people listened to Moses. They listened to God.

God’s people had a special meal of meat and flat bread. *Hold one hand flat, palm down over the other, rubbing them together. Mime eating.* They had to get ready to go before they ate, so they put on their shoes and held their walking stick ready in their hand. *Mime putting on shoes and holding a stick*. Then God’s people had to take a brush and dip it in the blood of the animal they had eaten They painted it on the doorframe of their houses. *Mime painting up high in front of them.*

That night, God protected all those people who did as he said. But Pharaoh and his people did not do what God said so God kept his promise. The eldest son in every Egyptian family died. Pharaoh and his people were very sad. At last, they did as God had told them and let God’s people go.

God had looked after his people. They followed his instructions and God set his people free.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

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

* What is your favourite part of this story?
* What didn’t you like about the story?
* How can we listen to God?
* Do you want to say anything to God?

### 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; *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 this is how Jewish families remember how God set them free from slavery today. 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. (Check for food allergies before this activity.)

### PRAYER – 5 mins

Talk to the children about how important it was for God’s people to remember what God had done for them, and to thank God for setting them free. Invite the children to think about some of the things that God has done for them and to thank him, as you pray. Take turns to say: “Thank you, God, for…” You may want to thank God for this story, and for the things we can discover from it, as you close the prayer.

**BECKY MAY**

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