



Welcome to Spark2, the Tribe weekly parsha activity sheet for Children's Service Leaders across the United Synagogue communities.

Thank you for offering to run a service. 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.

Spark2 gives you an overview of the weekly parsha, a song, activity or Dvar 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 Spark2. Please be in touch if you have any queries, feedback or if I can be of any help.

With best wishes,  
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## Pesach

A pinnacle moment in the history of the world is when God revealed Himself 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 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 logo. 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 Haggadah 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:

Kaddesh	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
Maggid	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 matzah
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
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. On the seder plate, items of symbolic significance that are used and referred to throughout the Seder are placed.

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, 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 Haggadah.

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.

### **Songs**

*Just a tad of charoset:*

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!



*I've Got A Feeling*

To the tune of '*Tonight's Gonna be a Good Night*'

I've gotta feeling (Woohoo)

That tonight's gonna be a good night

That tonight's gonna be a good night

Coz tonight Oh tonight is Seder night (x2)

Tonight's the night

We commemorate

How we left Egypt

Yeah in a haste

Went to freedom

Thanks to Hashem

So we could serve Him

As one nation

So grab your Hagaddah and let's ask away

Eat some Matzah, drink wine

Fill the Seder plate

We were slaves, there were plagues

So much to discuss

So gather your family

Coz there's no rush

We left Egypt

Mazel Tov

Wicked Pharaoh  
We left behind  
We take a pillow  
And we lean in  
To discuss the miracles  
That happened there  
Let's do it (x4)  
And do it (x2)  
Let's live it up  
And do it (x2)  
And do it do it do it  
Let's do it (x3)

Coz I've gotta feeling (Woohoo)  
That tonight's gonna be a good night  
That tonight's gonna be a good night  
That tonight's gonna be a good good night (x2)

*A Few of My Passover Things*

Sung 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 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.

*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.

Sing songs from the Haggadah such as Ma Nishtana, Dayenu and Chad Gadya with the children. Some children may know songs from Hallel.

## **Activities**

Please read through the activities below to find the ones that are most applicable to the children at your service.

- Hide pictures of chametz. Split the children into groups and give them a minute to 'hunt for the chametz'. When the time is up see which group has collected the greatest amount of pictures.
- 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.

- 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 could be:

1. A maze – children use their fingers to trace their way from slavery to freedom.
2. Draw two Pharaohs with about ten differences between one and the other. Children need to spot the differences.
3. 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?
4. Build a pyramid out of bricks, Lego or any stackable items.
5. 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.

6. Each child should say which plague would they least like to experience and why?
7. What is their favourite part of the Seder and why?
8. Sing each verse of Dayenu in a different way. For example whispering or rapping it.
9. How many Pesach 4's can you think of?

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- Use the information in the overview as the basis for a quiz.

- 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.

- Ask a child to act out Mrs. Pharaoh trying to convince her husband to LET THE JEWS GO!
- 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.
- 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.

- Create a 'grab 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)...
- 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 Haggadah. Remember we start the story in the Haggadah 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.
- Who can say the plagues/ order of the Seder backwards?
- 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? ) This one is definitely for the higher age groups.
- 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?

- 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.)

- 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'.

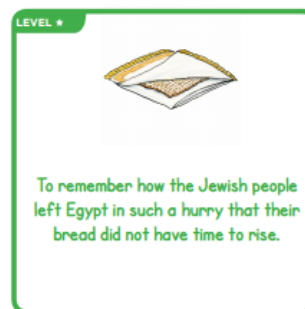
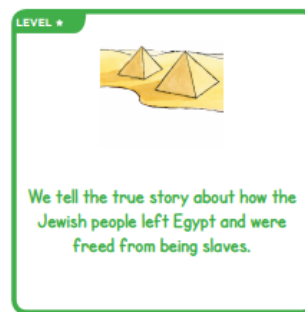
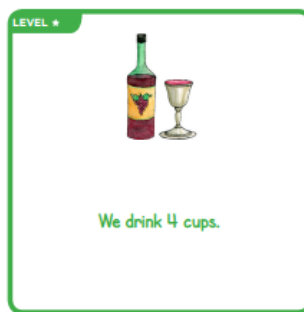
- Pesach voicemail: What message would Moshe (or choose someone else) have left on his voicemail as he led the Jewish people out of Egypt?

- For younger children: Use two blue blankets or pieces of material and a rope or another suitable material to mark the edge of the ground and the start of the sea. Act out the story of the Jewish people departing from Egypt and being chased after by




the Egyptians. When they reach the sea (blankets) they pray to God for help. God divides the sea with a strong wind (pull the blankets apart) and the Jewish people cross safely. The Egyptians follow but while they cross the walls of the sea collapse on them (carefully cover the Egyptians lightly with the blankets.)

- Below you will find some Pesach cards that can be printed off, cut out and laminated. You can use them in any way you wish. Some suggestions are as a memory game, or a quiz.




LEVEL ★



?

What is the story we discuss at the Seder?

LEVEL ★



?

How many cups of wine or grape juice do we drink at the Seder?

LEVEL ★



?

Who was the leader who led the Jewish people out of Egypt?

LEVEL ★



?

Why do we eat Matzah on Pesach?


LEVEL ★



?

Why do we eat Maror at the Seder?

LEVEL ★




?

Name 3 things that are Chametz

tribe

LEVEL ★★



?

Can you name the 10 plagues?

LEVEL ★★



?

How do we make Matzah?

LEVEL ★★



?

What were the names of Moshe's brother and sister?


LEVEL ★★



?

What are the 4 questions of the Mah Nishtana?


LEVEL ★★



?

How many times is Moshe's name mentioned in the Haggadah and why?

LEVEL ★★



?

Why do we dip a vegetable into salt water at the Seder?


tribe

LEVEL \*\*




Aharon and Miriam.

LEVEL \*\*



Using only flour and water,  
baked in under 18 mins!

LEVEL \*\*



Blood, Frogs, Lice, Wild Animals, Sick  
Animals, Boils, Hailstones, Locust,  
Darkness, Death of the First Born.

LEVEL \*\*




To remember the tears that the  
Jewish people cried when they  
were slaves in Egypt.

LEVEL \*\*



Only once, to show that it was really  
Hashem who did everything and took  
the Jewish people out of Egypt.

LEVEL \*\*



Why is this night different?  
a) Why do we eat Matzah?  
b) Why do we eat bitter Maror?  
c) Why do we dip twice?  
d) Why do we lean?

tribe

LEVEL \*\*\*



How did the Jewish people  
become slaves in Egypt?

LEVEL \*\*\*



What is the reason for each  
item on the Seder plate?

LEVEL \*\*\*




What happened to the Jewish  
people after they left Egypt?

LEVEL \*\*\*



What is Bedikat Chametz?

LEVEL \*\*\*



Who was the first person who  
jumped into the sea before  
Hashem made it split and who  
was he married to?

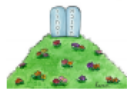
LEVEL \*\*\*



Why were the first three  
plagues carried out  
by Aharon?

tribe

LEVEL \*\*\*



The Egyptians chased them but Hashem made a miracle and the sea split. Then they received the Torah at Mount Sinai and travelled in the desert for 40 years before they came to the land of Israel.

LEVEL \*\*\*



A roasted bone reminds us of the Pesach offering. A hard-boiled egg reminds us of the festival offering. Karpas is dipped in salt water to remind us of the salty tears. Both bitter herbs remind us of the bitter times as slaves. The Charoset mixture reminds us of the cement used in Egypt.

LEVEL \*\*\*



They came to Egypt to get food as there was a famine in their land of Cana'an. After Yosef, who was second in command died, the Egyptians were worried because the Jewish people were increasing in numbers, so they forced them to be slaves.

LEVEL \*\*\*



Because Moshe was showing Hakarat Hatov (appreciation/gratitude) for the ground and river that saved him when he was a boy.

LEVEL \*\*\*



Nachshan Ben Aminadav, the husband of Miriam who was Moshe's sister.

LEVEL \*\*\*



It is when we search our house for Chametz the night before Pesach, traditionally with a candle, feather and spoon.

 tribe