

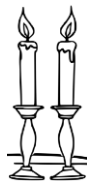
Hebrew date: 15th Nissan, 5785

Gregorian date: 12th – 13th April, 2025

London Chag times: 20:41 – 20:43

Special events: Pesach Day 1

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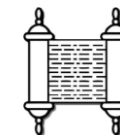


Parasha Thinking



- 1) The Jewish people didn't build the pyramids – they built cities for Paro. Why do you think people mistakenly claim that we built the pyramids?
- 2) Imagine you were a slave and you knew that Yocheved was in the palace, raising her own child. How would you keep this information to yourself?
- 3) How does the word, watching, link to the Parasha?

Pesach Information



Summary – Part 1

The Jewish people had moved to Egypt to escape a terrible famine. The wicked Egyptian king, Paro (Pharaoh), forced them into slavery and made them work day and night, doing backbreaking tasks. He didn't give them food and stopped them from getting a decent amount of sleep. He made sure his officers knew to whip them, as a punishment but they were ruthless and got pleasure from harming them.

King Paro ruled that all Jewish baby boys must be drowned in the Nile. One Jewish mum had given birth to a boy and she was scared that he'd be taken to the river to be drowned, by Paro's soldiers so she protected him in a basket and placed it to float on the river. She arranged for her daughter, Miriam, to watch him, from behind the bulrush plants. Paro's daughter came to the river to bathe and heard crying. She found the baby in the basket and reached out to pick him up. "This must be a Jewish baby. I will call him Moshe. I'll take him back to the palace and raise him there."

Discovery

Did you know that Paro involved everyone in the building work at the beginning, Jews and Egyptians alike, and then sent the Egyptians home one by one, until there were only Jewish people left and then he turned nasty and forced them to work, for no pay and under terrible conditions.

Did you know that the basket was covered with tar, to make it waterproof?

Did you know that when Paro's daughter was taking Moshe back to the palace, his sister, Miriam, asked her if she wanted an au pair to feed the baby and help raise him. His daughter agreed to this and Miriam brought the baby's own mother – Yocheved, to raise him.

Who has done something special for you this week and what did they do? (If they are present, go up to them and say thank you!)

Games

1) King Corners

Resources: pack of cards

Link: Paro was the king.

Assign each of the four corners of the room – King of Hearts, King of Spades, King of Diamonds, King of Clubs. Sing some seder songs, like Ma Nishtana or Dayenu. Every time you stop singing, the children should run to a corner of the room. You then pull out a card from the pack and whoever is in the corner that has the same suit as the card you took, is out. Repeat until there's a winner.

2) Fill Up, How?

Resources: one table, two Kiddush shot cups, two spoons and two bottles of water.

Risk assessment: If the flooring in the children's service room is unsafe for this activity, make suitable tweaks to the activity.

Link: Moshe floated on the water of the River Nile

Place empty shot cups on a table at the back of the room and children form two lines at the front of the room. Child 1 in each line must pour some water from the bottle into their spoon and carry the spoon to the shot cup and pour in the water. Once they return they can pass the spoon to player 2 etc. The winning team is the team that is first to completely fill the cup.

3) Adon Olam to Whaaaaat?

Adon Olam fits to any tune. Can we fit it to the tune of Dayenu?



Story (One of the children can read this out loud – encourage them to use expression.)

"They don't even realise that they're at my beck and call." Scoffed Noah.

"Look at them," added Elliot, "all thinking they're part of your club."

"So easily convinced," laughed Noah. "Watch this, watch this!"

"Can anyone pass me my water bottle and, oh, whilst you're at it, I think I might need a refill!"

The whole class scrambled to get to the bottle and be the one to fill it, whilst Noah and Elliot leaned back with a smug expression and watched the drama unfold.

The next day, Noah asked Miles to give him some of his lunch dessert. Miles really didn't want to but felt he couldn't say no, so he gave Noah his muffin, that he'd been looking forward to all morning, all whilst pretending to have a smile on his face. Noah winked at Elliot and patted Miles on the shoulder, as if to say thanks.

The day after that, Noah demanded that Talie give him some money so he could buy kosher sweets at the newsagents. Talie knew that if she gave Noah the money, she wouldn't have enough to buy her own sweets, so she wasn't so comfortable giving money away. She hesitated, wondering if she should give it to him or not and this made Noah really angry. "Don't be the only one to let me down, Talie, I'm sure everyone would be more than happy to give me some money, wouldn't you, everyone?" Everyone quickly said, yes, and nodded their heads in agreement. Talie felt like she wasn't able to stick up for herself, and she handed Noah the money. Noah thought to himself, 'yes, another win! They're all going to do what I say, always!'

On Friday morning, Noah demanded that Charles should rub out his own name from the maths homework and write Noah instead. Charles was really scared but he knew that something had to be done, so he grabbed Mr Coleman as he went by and said, "Mr Coleman, I have a problem and I really need your help, please." Mr Coleman looked concerned and led him into his office and listened to everything as he explained what had been going on. Noah was called in next and was given a stern warning about his behaviour. At the beginning Noah was furious with Charles but he actually discovered something – once he started being nice to his classmates and treating them with respect, they actually started to like him and notice that he's really funny and great fun to be around. Now, for the first time, he started to have some real friends who were kind, respectful, fun and most importantly, they made him be a kind and respectful person back towards them.

1) What can we learn from this story and does it connect at all, to Pesach?

2) Have you ever convinced someone to do something to make yourself look better or stronger?

3) In your opinion, why does Noah have more friends now?

