



PASSOVER...

SLAVERY

FROM EGYPT TO TODAY

Made possible
by a grant from
Jewish Federation
OF GREATER DALLAS



SLAVERY FROM EGYPT TO TODAY

The Story of Passover

Abraham, the first Jew, came from a family of idol worshippers. He broke with their tradition and became a believer in the One God, who promised him and his wife Sarah that their descendants would become a great people, as numerous as the stars in the sky. God renewed this promise with their son Isaac and his wife Rebecca, and with their son Jacob and his wives Rachel and Leah.

God led Abraham and Sarah across the river Euphrates to the land of Israel (then called Canaan), but warned that their descendants would be strangers in a strange land, enslaved for 400 years.

Indeed, this prophecy came true. Joseph, the son of Jacob and Rachel, came to live in Egypt after being sold by his jealous brothers to a caravan of merchants. Because of his ability to interpret dreams, he rose to power as an advisor to Pharaoh. Joseph told him to build storehouses and fill them with grain. When years of famine struck, there was still food to eat in Egypt. Pharaoh was so grateful that when Joseph's brothers came in search of food, he invited them to settle in the area called Goshen. Jacob's household, known as Israelites, multiplied greatly and lived peacefully in Egypt. Years later, a new Pharaoh came to rule, who did not remember Joseph and all he had done for the Egyptian people. He feared that the Israelites were becoming too numerous and too powerful and might side with the enemy if there should be a war. Slavery in Egypt

This Pharaoh made the Israelites slaves. He forced them to do hard labor, building cities with bricks made from clay and straw. The people knew neither peace nor rest, only misery and pain. The cruelest decree of all was Pharaoh's order that every baby boy born to an Israelite woman be drowned in the River Nile. The midwives, Shifra and Puah, feared God and did not do as the Pharaoh had ordered, but allowed the infants to live.

One couple, Amram and Yocheved, hid their newborn at home for three months. When his cries became too loud, Yocheved placed him in a basket on the river. Their daughter Miriam watched to see what would happen. When Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe in the river, she discovered the basket. Feeling pity for the helpless child, she decided to keep him as her own and named him Moshe (Moses), meaning "drawn from the water."

Bravely, Miriam asked the princess if she needed a nurse to help her with the baby. The princess said yes, and so it happened that Yocheved was able to care for her own son and teach him about his heritage.



SLAVERY FROM EGYPT TO TODAY

Moses Becomes a Leader

Moses would have lived at the Pharaoh's palace forever, but he could not ignore the suffering of his people. Once, when he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave, he was unable to control his anger, and he killed the Egyptian. Knowing his life would be in danger once the news of this deed spread, Moses fled to the land of Midian, where he became a shepherd.

One day, while tending sheep on Mount Horeb, Moses saw a bush that seemed to be on fire, but was not burning up. From the bush, he heard God's voice calling him. God said, "I am the God of your ancestors. I have seen the suffering of the Israelites and have heard their cries. I am ready to take them out of Egypt and bring them to a new land, a land flowing with milk and honey."



The Seder is also known as our People's Exodus from Slavery to Freedom

Let's share the story of Pesach around this class table with each other, going around the table...

We are retelling the second book of our bible – What is the name of the second book? E _____

How does the story of the Exodus begin? _____

Why would the Pharaoh worry about having lots of people in his country? _____

Who are the famous characters from the story and how are they central to the story?:

Yocheved _____

Miriam _____

Pharaoh's Daughter, Princess _____

Amram _____

Aaron _____

Moses _____

Pharaoh _____



SLAVERY FROM EGYPT TO TODAY

Crossing The Sea

What was the Sea called?

How did Moses keep the people calm when they reached the Sea and couldn't get across?

What was the miracle that Moses got the Lord to do next?

What are the FIVE things we recognize that GOD alone did for us at that time

1 M _____ H _____

2 O _____ A _____

3 T _____

4 S _____ &

5 W _____



In return of our freedom we celebrate the holiday, what special items do we have on our Seder Plate?

1 E _ _ _ which symbolizes _____

2 Ch _____ which symbolizes _____

3 Sh _____ which symbolizes _____

4 G _____ V _____ which symbolizes _____

5 M _____ which symbolizes _____

What other plate holds a special item and what is it called? M _____

In modern times, many homes will add other symbols of our freedom and our pursuit of freedom. Can you think of symbols that you have seen or might suggest?



SLAVERY FROM EGYPT TO TODAY

Why did Moses leave the Palace? _____

Who did he meet when he was in the wilderness? _____

When Moses returned, what did he say & do? _____

The Plagues of Egypt, in the story of the book of Exodus, are ten disasters inflicted on Biblical Egypt by the God of Israel in order to convince the Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to depart from slavery, each of them confronting Pharaoh and one of his Egyptian gods; they serve as "signs and marvels" given by God to answer Pharaoh's taunt that he does not know Yahweh: "The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD"

What are the Ten Plagues? (first letter in English/ parenthesized word is the plague in Hebrew)

- 1 B _____ (Dahm)
- 2 F _____ (Tzfardaya)
- 3 L _____ (Kinim)
- 4 B _____ (Arov)
- 5 C _____ D _____ (Dever)
- 6 B _____ (Sh'hin)
- 7 H _____ (Barad)
- 8 L _____ (Arbeh)
- 9 D _____ (Choshekh)
- 10 D _____ (Makat B'Horot)



SLAVERY FROM EGYPT TO TODAY

MODERN SLAVERY

1. How many slaves are there today? About . . .

- a) 2 thousand
- b) 21 thousand
- c) 21 million

2. Are there children who are slaves

Yes

No

3. Slavery happens only in faraway countries.

True

False

4. Why do some people make other people become slaves? Write down your thoughts.



SLAVERY FROM EGYPT TO TODAY

We have spent a LOT of time remembering our experience of slavery and lack of freedom. Each year at Passover we celebrate that we are now free!

Did you know that even today, there are many places where people are still slaves?

Did you know that we retell our story of slavery to freedom each year to understand our responsibility as free people?

Because we knew slavery, we understand how painful it can be. How can we help others gain freedom?

We can learn the stories of those still enslaved. We can share their stories at our Seder and with family and friends. We can remember our responsibility as free people and alert others, especially elected officials to make sure slavery ends once and for all.



Resources to Help Those Still Enslaved

425 Actions you can take now to end slavery:

<http://www.endslaverynow.org/act/action-library>

More things YOU can do:

<https://www.antislavery.org/take-action/>

Buy Fair Trade Items:

<https://www.antislavery.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/slavetradevfairtrade.pdf>

and <https://www.fairtradecertified.org/products>

Enhance your Seder with Seder Starters at www.freetheslaves.net/Judaism

a collection of readings and activities that you can integrate into your seder.

Engage everyone around the table, enhance the conversation,

and help slaves on our Festival of Freedom.

