

# Personal Development years 7, 8 and 9

## Home Learning Project

(from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Summer 2020)

### Festivals



#### Learning objectives:

To describe important religious stories

To explain how believers remember and celebrate these stories

SO THAT WE CAN evaluate the importance of festivals and beliefs in our own lives

**Lesson one** – The meaning of religious festivals and an introduction to the story of Passover

**Lesson two** – Tell the story of Passover. The meanings of Passover food

**Lesson three** – The Passover meal. How Passover impacts on faith

**Lesson four** – Why is Passover important to Jews?

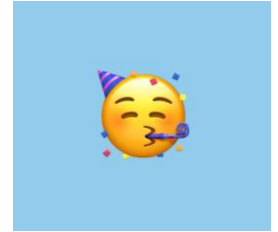
**Lesson five** – The Easter story

**Lesson six** – Easter symbols and their meanings

## Lesson One

What is the meaning behind our celebrations?

- New Year means...
- Birthdays mean...



Pick two other celebrations that you participate in and explain what they mean to you

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A **religious festival** is a celebration that remembers a story from the history of a religion.

How many examples can you think of?

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Can you name the festivals in these pictures?



Every year, Jews celebrate the Feast of Passover to remember the escape of the **Hebrews** (their ancestors) from slavery. The story of Passover is told in the Book of **Exodus** (This word means lots of people moving to a new place). The Hebrews had been slaves in Egypt for 210 years. God promised he would release them from slavery, but Pharaoh had refused to release them and God sent Egypt ten plagues to demonstrate his power.

## The Passover Story – read this:

Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, had made a law that every boy baby of the Hebrew race should be killed. But when Moses was born, his mother made a little basket, and putting him into it, carried him down to a river and hid the cradle among the reeds (long grasses) there.

Soon after this, Pharaoh's daughter came with her servants to the riverside, and when she saw the child, she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. She took the little boy to the palace and named him Moses, and he became a great man among the Egyptians.

Moses knew that he belonged to the Hebrew race, and when he saw how badly his own people were treated, he tried to help them. One day he lost his temper and killed an Egyptian who was beating one of the Hebrew slaves. He ran away into the desert, and became a shepherd, taking care of a flock of sheep.

After a time, God appeared as a burning bush and spoke to Moses and told him that he must go and rescue the Hebrews from slavery, as they are God's chosen people and He has promised to protect them. Moses thought he could not do this; but God promised to help him by giving him the ability to perform miracles with his Shepherd's staff. After this Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh, and told him that it was God's command that he should let the Hebrews go. Pharaoh became very angry, and he treated the Hebrews even worse than before.

Then Moses used miracles to turn the waters of the rivers into blood; and after that he caused large numbers of frogs to run over the land and through the houses. He also brought locusts and other insects to torment the people, and caused many of the farm animals which belonged to the Egyptians to grow sick and die, doing all these miracles with the staff which God had given him. But Pharaoh would not listen to him. (continued next page)

At last, God sent a final plague; the angel of death killed the first-born child of every Egyptian home; but the Hebrews had sacrificed a lamb and smeared its blood across their door frames, so the plague passed over their houses.

Then Pharaoh was frightened into obeying God, and he let the Hebrews go; so they left at once, and God guided them by a pillar of cloud and fire.

When the Hebrews had reached the Red Sea, they found that Pharaoh was chasing them with a large army. But God commanded Moses to stretch his staff over the sea; he did so, and the waters parted, making a high wall upon either side, so that the Hebrews passed through and reached the other side in safety. Pharaoh and his army followed and were all drowned.

When the Hebrews saw that they were safe, they sang a beautiful song of praise to God, and then they went on their way again.

Answer the questions:

1. Why do you think this story is so important to Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the most important part of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Is the story an entirely happy one? Why not? \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do you think the festival is called Passover? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson two

Task: Tell the story in 6 steps! Make a plan for what you should include for steps 2-5, then complete the comic strip. You only have 4 panels so pick the most important parts! Add drawings and descriptions.

		
<p>1. Pharaoh orders the Hebrew boys to be killed. Moses' mother hides him. He is found by the Pharaoh's daughter, who raises him as an Egyptian.</p>	2	3
		
4	5	<p>6. Moses parts the Red Sea and the Hebrews escape slavery. The Egyptians chase them but are drowned in the sea.</p>

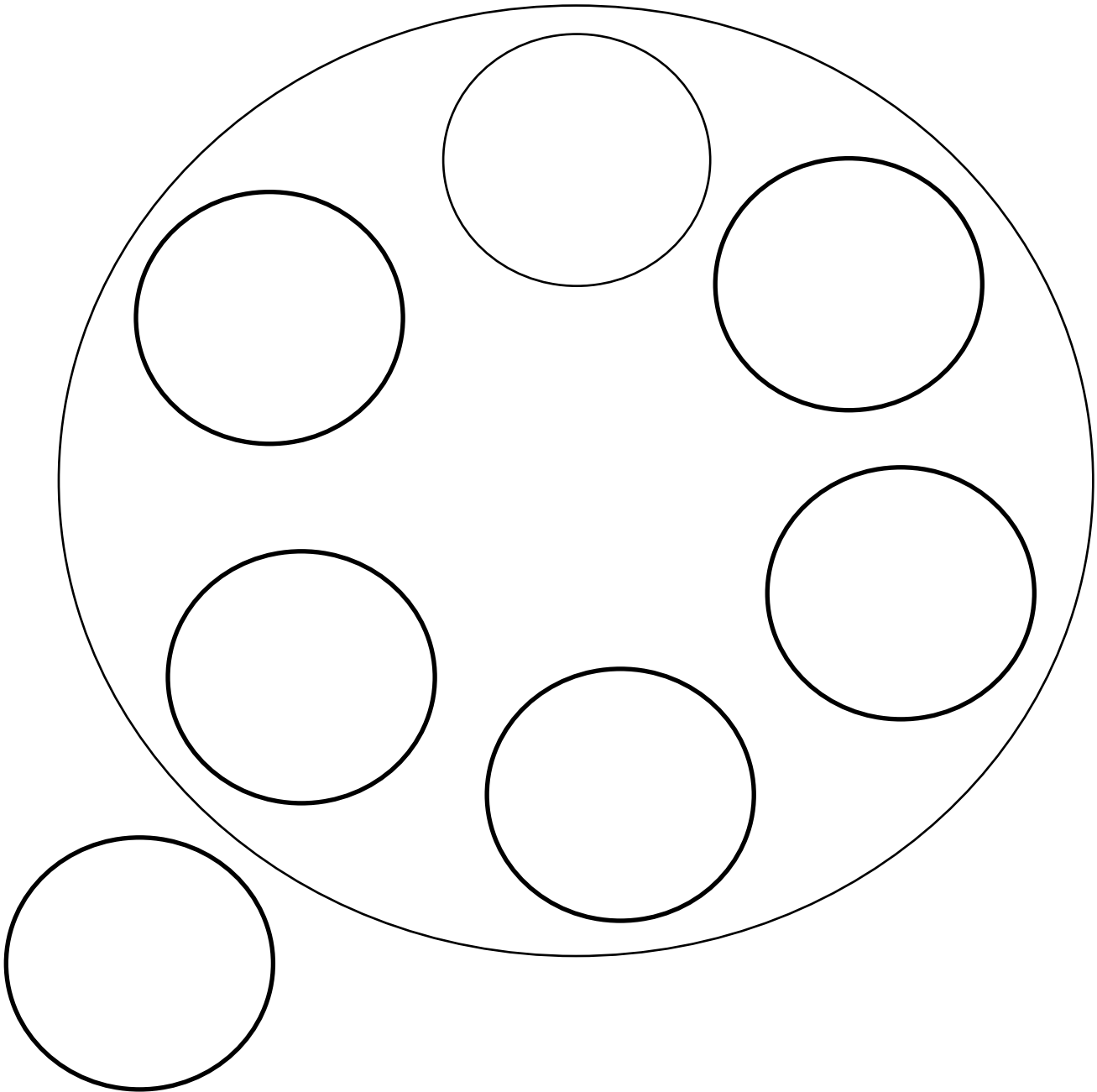
## How do Jews celebrate Passover?

1. Match the foods to their meanings
2. Check your answers and then fill in the missing spaces on the Seder plate sheet

Salt water	A sweet paste made of nuts and sugar to represent the cement made by the Hebrew slaves to build the pyramids
Parsley and vegetables	These <b>two foods</b> represent sacrifices (offerings made to God in the Holy Temple)
Roasted egg	These are dipped in the salt water
Lamb shank bone	Represent the tears shed by the slaves
Bitter herbs	The bitterness of the herbs represents the bitterness (sadness) of slavery
Charoset	This symbolises the joy of God rescuing his people from slavery
Wine or grape juice	

### Lesson three

How do Jews celebrate the Passover meal? Write or draw the food and add a description to say what it symbolises.





How does Passover impact on faith?



**The Holocaust:** Around the time of World War II, **Nazi Germany** imprisoned and murdered some six million **Jews**. Many Jews were placed in concentration camps where they were forced to do hard physical jobs.

Many Jews continued to celebrate their holy festivals in secret – even in the concentration camps! They did this, despite knowing that they risked being punished or even killed if they were caught.

1. Can you think of any similarities between the holocaust and the story of Exodus/Passover?

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2. Why do you think Jews continued to celebrate Passover, despite the risk of being caught?

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## Lesson four

### Why is Passover important to Jews?

- Include as many of these key terms and ideas as possible

Hebrews	Slavery
Exodus	Seder meal
Miracles/ Plagues	Holocaust
Community	Matzah (unleavened bread)

- *One tradition that Jews have during Passover is...*
- *For example.../this means.../ this represents...*
- *This is important to Jews because...*
- *Another important part of this festival is...*
- *For example.../this means.../ this represents...*
- *This is important to Jews because...*



## Lesson five

Easter celebrates the start of the Christian religion. The Easter story remembers the last days of Jesus, and his resurrection (Christians believe that Jesus was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday). Jesus and his followers were Jewish, but Christianity was started by Jesus' friends after they believed he had returned to heaven. *Read the story now.*

### Easter Story



Jesus asked his friends to find him a donkey. Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem. The people gathered together, it was like a big huge parade. They waved palm leaves at Jesus as he came down the streets.

But some people did not like Jesus. They were jealous of him and wanted him gone. Jesus and his friends had a special dinner, the Passover (Seder) meal. He was very sad as he knew that people were plotting against him and that he would soon die.

He took some bread and divided it amongst his disciples and said "This is my body, broken for you". Next, Jesus took some wine and shared it with his disciples, saying; "This is my blood ... poured out for the forgiveness of sins".

After dinner, Jesus prayed all night in the garden of Gethsemane.



The next morning, Jesus' enemies came to get him. They placed a crown of thorns on his head and put him on a cross. They drove nails into his hand and feet and waited for him to die.

When Jesus died, they placed his body in a tomb which was cut in to a rock. The tomb was sealed with a large stone.

Two days later, Mary Magdalene, a friend of Jesus, visited the tomb. She found that the stone had been moved and Jesus was gone! Then the disciples knew that Jesus was alive again.



"Do this in memory of me."

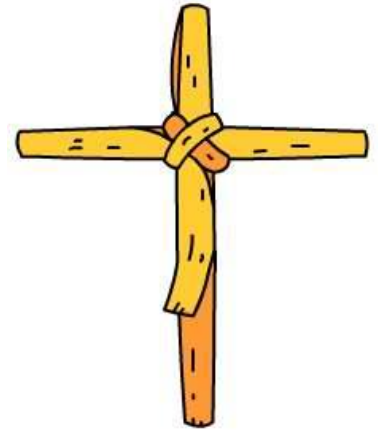
(What is Holy Communion?)

Holy Communion is a re-enactment of the Last Supper, the final meal that Jesus Christ shared with his disciples before his arrest, and eventual crucifixion. At the meal Jesus ate bread and wine and instructed his disciples to do the same in memory of him.

The people taking part drink a sip of wine (or grape juice) and eat a small piece of bread/cracker, both are **consecrated**.

**Consecrated** - Make something sacred; to dedicate it to a religious purpose. In Christian belief they consecrate (bread or wine) into the body or blood of Christ.

“He took some bread and divided it amongst his disciples and said “This is my body, broken for you”. Next, Jesus took some wine and shared it with his disciples, saying; “This is my blood ... poured out for the forgiveness of sins”.



What do you think Jesus meant when he said this to his followers?

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Some Christians, such as Roman Catholics and members of the Church of England, have Holy Communion every week. Why do you think they do this even when it isn't Easter?

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How does Easter impact on Christian's faith?

1. Why do you think Easter is the most important festival for Christians?

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2. On what day does Easter begin? Why is it a sad day?

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3. Why do you think some Christians go for a walk on this day?

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4. Why do some Christians describe Easter as a festival of 'mixed emotions'?

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## Lesson six

Match the Easter symbols to their meaning:



These remind believers of new life as Jesus rose again. Some say that the shape recalls the stone that was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb.



This food uses the symbol of the cross to remind believers how Jesus died



These remind us that Jesus was known as 'The lamb of God' as he was sacrificed for humanity.



This shape reminds believers of Jesus who was crucified. It is also a symbol for the religion.



These remind believers of Palm Sunday when people placed leaves on the ground as Jesus rode into Jerusalem

**CHALLENGE:** Write a paragraph explaining what Easter means to you and your family.