**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 2 of 4

# Passover

### MEETING AIM

To explore the story of the first Passover and its significance to God’s people.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Exodus 11-12

### 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.

God’s rescue of his people from Egypt is a central story in the identity of the people of God. It’s significance echoes through the centuries to the time of David, Josiah and Ezra. It’s central, too, to communion, and Jesus’ use of the Passover symbols in the Last Supper (eg Matthew 26:17-30) is significant. Whether the young people in your group know this story or not, help them to see how pivotal these moments are, and how much the idea of rescue is important for our own faith.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

As the young people arrive, ask the group if anyone is scared of anything. This week it’s Moses and the Passover. Before the final plague, there were nine plagues of water turned into blood, frogs, biting insects, livestock disease, boils, hail, locusts and darkness. What would be the worst plague to experience?

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** escape room activities

Before your session, put together an escape room for your group. There is lots of help and inspiration online, so do a search and choose some activities that the group can do in your meeting space.

After you have finished, ask how easy it was to ‘escape’.

### BIBLE EXPLORATION – 10 mins

**You will need:** *The Prince of Egypt* and the means to play it; Bibles

Remind the group of what has happened so far in the great story of the Bible.

Show the clip from *The Prince of Egypt* that shows plagues two to nine (1:02:30 to 1:05:20, chapter 21 of the DVD). Ask the group to think about what it must have been like for the Egyptians. Which plague does the film show that isn’t in the Bible? (Fiery hail!) Why did the pharaoh act the way he did?

Show another clip (1:09:18 to 1:13:48, chapter 23). This shows the final plague and the pharaoh at last setting the Hebrews free. What has changed for the pharaoh?

Give out the Bibles and ask the group to turn to Exodus 12:21-28. Read the passage together and ask the young people to think about why God told the Israelites to celebrate Passover every year. What is it about this event that is special?

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Use these questions as a guide to discussion, though try to be attentive to the questions the group may have, or significant points that the conversation takes.

* What do you think it would have been like to experience the first Passover?
* What do you think the Passover meant to the Israelites?
* How did the Passover change the lives of the Jewish people?
* Why do you think Jewish people still celebrate the Passover today?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** pitta bread (or other flat bread or crackers); red grape juice

Explain that Jewish people still celebrate and remember the Passover. You can find more information about the Jewish Passover meal or *sedah* [online](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/judaism/holydays/passover_1.shtml) if you want to explain it in more detail.

Two parts of the Passover meal are the unleavened bread and wine. The wine symbolises the sacrificed lamb’s blood that was painted on the doors, so that the Lord would pass over their home.

Make sure everyone has some bread and some red-coloured drink. Explain that as part of the Passover meal, Jewish people will drink from four cups of wine, each symbolising four promises of redemption that God makes to his people about their exodus from Egypt: “I will take you out…” “I will save you…” “I will redeem you…” and “I will take you as a nation…”

Ask the group if they can see any connection between these symbols and a Christian celebration. They may recognise the bread and wine as communion. Explain that at the Last Supper, Jesus was celebrating the Passover meal with his friends. Ask them why they think Jesus linked his death with the Passover meal.

Invite the group to share in the bread and juice to celebrate and remember the first Passover.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** whiteboard or paper and pen

One big element of the Exodus is that God is interested in setting people free. Ask the group for suggestions of the kinds of slavery people are in today. Together, write a list of these people, and invite the group to pray for them together. You could pray for someone on the list and then pass the paper to the next person.

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