



A SWEET PASSOVER

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Miriam loves celebrating Passover with her family. She especially enjoys eating matzah, but as the holiday progresses, day after day, the little girl is less and less enamored of the flat, crispy cracker and longs for bread or bagels or...anything but matzah! With the help of her grandfather and his matzah brei, Miriam learns about the true meaning of Passover.

Passover commemorates the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt after 400 years of slavery. It is celebrated during the Hebrew month of *Nisan*, which falls in early spring. Referred to as *Pesach* in Hebrew, this holiday is a celebration of our freedom.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

The sacred journey taken by our people is symbolized by eating unleavened bread called *matzah*. Eating this flat cracker as our ancestors did helps us focus on our own actions and remember those for whom the journey to freedom is not yet complete.

Because we recognize that freedom is a privilege, we understand the imperative to pass our traditions on to the next generation. The Jewish value, *L'dor Va'dor* (literally, "from generation to generation") demonstrates our communal responsibility to act as storytellers and be the conveyers of our collective past.

In *A Sweet Passover*, this value is conveyed through a family's desire to share Passover rituals with their child. Consider creating a book of Passover recipes to pass on *l'dor va'dor*, from generation to generation. Challenge your family to create enough great recipes that not even Miriam would complain!

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Providing a peek behind the curtain, *A Sweet Passover* invites the reader to experience a multi-generational conversation about the challenges of upholding Passover traditions.

In this story we meet Miriam, who loves everything about Passover. When the idea of eating just one more piece of *matzah* becomes simply too much for her to bear, Miriam's grandfather and her extended family provide meaning for *matzah's* importance to the Jewish people's history.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

While you are reading this book with your children, you might consider asking some of the following questions to bring meaning to your reading experience:

- Can you think of a time when you felt frustrated and someone helped you?
- Why didn't Miriam's grandfather make her *matzah brei* when she was ready to eat?
- Talk about the ways in which your celebration of Passover is the same as and different from Miriam's. Are there aspects of that celebration that you would like to adopt? Pj