



## A DIFFERENT KIND OF PASSOVER

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Every year, Jessica looks forward to spending Passover with her Grandma and Grandpa – but this year, Grandpa is sick. Jessica is worried. How will the family make sure the holiday still feels special?

### JEWISH CONCEPTS

The holiday of Passover tells the story of how the Jewish people were miraculously released from hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt to become a free nation. *Yetziat Mitzrayim*, the exodus from Egypt, is an event unparalleled in the history of the world. Following the account of the story in the *Torah* (the first five books of the Bible), God commands the people over and over to remember the exodus, and to pass the knowledge of it from generation to generation forever.

As a result, Passover is a particularly family-oriented holiday. Like Jessica and her family in *A Different Kind of Passover*, several generations are often represented at *seders* (ritual meals accompanied by the telling of the Passover story). Great emphasis is put on the children; certain elements of the seder are designed specifically to prompt them to ask questions and engage with the narrative. By taking special care to involve the youngest members of the family in the seder, the heritage and traditions continue to be passed down through the generations. The hope is that they will do the same with their own children one day. It is essential that both young and old understand the events and significance of the exodus, for the *Haggadah* (book containing the Passover story) enjoins: “In every generation, each person is obligated to look on themselves as though they personally came out of Egypt.”

### USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

There are six essential *mitzvot* (commandments) involved in the Passover seder, as outlined in the *Haggadah*. You can explore and enjoy these activities as a family:

1. **Tell the story of the exodus from Egypt.** You might choose a *Haggadah* specifically geared toward children.
2. **Eat *matzah*:** unleavened bread that reminds us of the Jews’ hasty departure from Egypt, such that there was no time for their bread to rise.
3. **Eat *maror*** (bitter herbs): symbolic of the bitterness of the Egyptian slavery. Horseradish is often used, but children may prefer romaine lettuce instead!
4. **Drink four cups of wine or grape juice:** representative of the four different expressions God uses in the *Torah* to describe how God will redeem the Jewish people from slavery.
5. **Eat the *afikoman*:** a piece of *matzah* that is the last thing eaten at the seder. There is a tradition to hide the *afikoman* and to reward the child who discovers it with a treat.
6. **Recite *Hallel*:** a collection of psalms praising God for the redemption from Egypt.