

River Ride Passover Walk: Sample Questions and Activities

To add an experiential dimension to the walk, post one of our suggestions, or create your own.



1) Discussion Questions:

What do you notice? Can you find the matzah? (These questions can be posted at each station)

What are the slaves doing? How do they feel while they work? How can you tell?

Is hard work always bad? What makes it good or bad?

When have you worked hard on something? How did you feel?

1) Activities:

Build with blocks, cardboard boxes, legos or other building materials.

Carry heavy items from one area to another.



2) Discussion Questions:

What do you notice? Can you find the matzah?

What is Miriam looking at? What do you think the animals are looking at?

How do you think Miriam feels about putting the basket in the river?

If you have a brother or sister, did you ever protect them, or did they ever protect you?

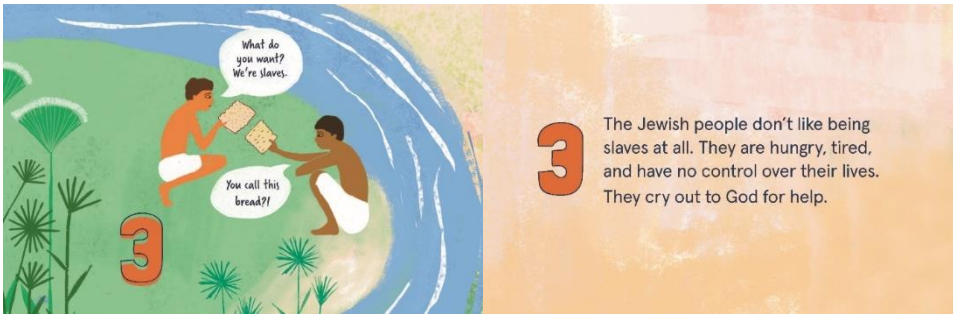
2) Activities:

Bathe, dress or feed baby dolls.

Weave with paper, yarn or natural materials.

Experiment with floating and sinking using tubs of water and a variety of materials.

Can you build a vessel out of foil for the "baby" (i.e. pennies or pebbles) to float?



3 The Jewish people don't like being slaves at all. They are hungry, tired, and have no control over their lives. They cry out to God for help.

3) Discussion Questions:

What do you notice? Can you find the matzah?

Do the slaves look comfortable while they are eating? Why or why not?

Did you ever cry for help? What happened?

3) Activities:

Demonstrate the faces and/or sounds you make when you are hungry, tired and sad. Look at yourself in a mirror or a "selfie."

Choose a feeling, act it out, and have others guess your emotion.



4 Moses, all grown up, goes out from the palace and sees an Egyptian treating a Jewish slave badly. He stops the Egyptian. Now Moses feels that he, too, is Jewish, and runs away from Egypt.

4) Discussion Questions:

What do you notice? Can you find the matzah?

How is the slave feeling? How can you tell?

How do you think the slave feels after Moses stops the Egyptian?

Why do you think Moses decides to run away from Egypt?

Pretend you are Moses. What would you have said to the Egyptian?

4) Activities

Draw, write or talk about a time you stood up for someone, or someone stood up for you.

Act out this scene or retell it from the point of view of each character in the picture.

Create signs, posters or buttons to speak out about issues that are important to you.



5

Moses is herding sheep when he notices a strange bush. It's on fire but not burning down. Amazing! He hears God's voice telling him to go to Pharaoh and demand that the Jewish people – Moses' people – be set free.

5) Discussion Questions:

What do you notice? Can you find the matzah?

How does Moses feel when he's looking at the bush? How can you tell?

Can you think of a time when you saw something so amazing that you had to stop and stare? Moses is nervous about going to Pharaoh. Were you ever asked to do something you thought you couldn't do? What happened?

5) Activities:

Create an individual or collaborative art project to depict the bush. (Possible media include paint, tissue paper, collage with repurposed materials.)



6

With his brother Aaron, Moses goes to Pharaoh and says, "Let my people go!" Pharaoh answers, "Never!"

6) Discussion Questions:

What do you notice? Can you find the matzah?

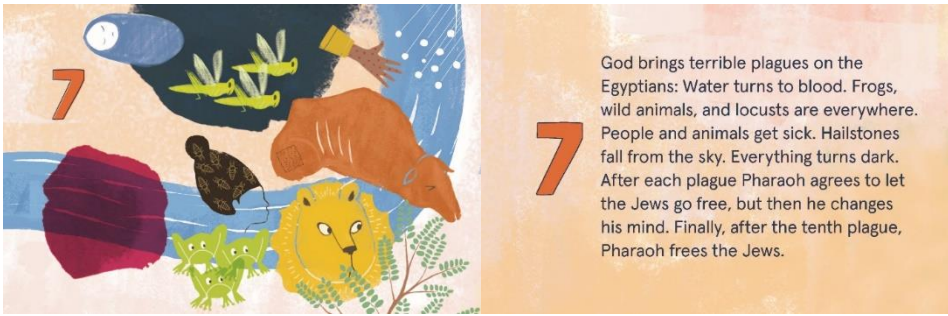
Look at Pharaoh's head – why do you think it is so big in the picture?

Why do you think there are snakes in the picture?

Moses took Aaron, his brother, instead of going alone to Pharaoh. Can you think of a time where you asked someone to come with you to do something scary? What happened?

6) Activity

This is one of many scenes where a staff or stick is important to the story. Decorate a stick or dowel – yarn, chenille stems, or washi tape are possible media.



7 God brings terrible plagues on the Egyptians: Water turns to blood. Frogs, wild animals, and locusts are everywhere. People and animals get sick. Hailstones fall from the sky. Everything turns dark. After each plague Pharaoh agrees to let the Jews go free, but then he changes his mind. Finally, after the tenth plague, Pharaoh frees the Jews.

Families' comfort levels with discussing, or acting out, the ten plagues with their children will vary widely – be sensitive to the range of ages and various perspectives when planning questions and activities for this station.

7) Discussion Questions

What do you notice? Can you find the matzah?

What plagues do you see? Which plague looks the scariest?

7) Activities

Act out select plagues, using props such as blindfolds and ping-pong balls.

Make a list of 10 things that make you feel bad. Share at your seder.



8 The time has come! With great excitement and nervousness, the Jews pack their things and rush out of Egypt. They go so fast that the bread they are baking in celebration doesn't have time to rise.

8) Discussion Questions:

What do you notice? Can you find the matzah?

Why is the family hurrying? How do you think the family feels about leaving Egypt?

They are leaving Egypt forever – what do you think they packed to take with them?

8) Activities:

Mix flour and water or set up a matzah baking activity

Sample and compare various types of matzoh, or matzah toppings



9

The Jews think they're safe, but when they reach the big sea they hear Pharaoh's army chasing after them. Pharaoh has changed his mind again. The Jews are trapped. But then a miracle happens: The sea opens up, so the Jewish people can march across between two giant walls of water.

9) Discussion Questions:

What do you notice? Can you find the matzah?(hint: you have to use your imagination!)
 How do you think the Jews feel when they hear Pharaoh's army?
 What's the most amazing thing you've ever seen?
 What do you think a miracle is?

9) Activities:

Act out crossing the Red Sea using props such as blue fabric, streamers or scarves. Show how you feel *before* the sea opens. Show how you feel *after* the sea opens. Use a sand/water table to replicate all or part of this story.



10

The sea closes up. The Jewish people are free! They sing and dance and celebrate. At Passover every year we remember the miracle of freedom.

10) Discussion Questions:

What do you notice? Can you find the matzah?
 Which characters in this picture do you recognize from other panels? (Go back and find them!)
 How will the Jewish people's lives be different now?

10) Activities:

Miriam led the Jews in song and dance with tambourines. Make up a freedom song and dance. Make tambourines or jingle bells. (Use the stick from an earlier activity!)

Print and Display Tips:

- Enlarge each page up to 150% (25.5" x 16.5")
- Display the text above, below or alongside the picture.
- For outdoor use, print on card stock and laminate. Attach to stakes with staples or velcro.
- Make sure to display at a height appropriate for children.
- Spread out the stations far enough for a stroll, but close enough to easily find the next one.
- Use page two (the complete story) as an optional handout rather than displaying on the trail.
- Questions? Contact Amy Meltzer, Engagement Officer at PJ Library. ameltzer@hgf.org