

4. Passover – festival of freedom

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are reflecting on the story of Moses and journeying with him as he leads God’s people from Egypt and to the Promised Land. At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to be back together as a community, and so we are using the story of Moses to help us to reflect on some important ideas from this story about being community together and about God, who looked after them. These stories can be found in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur’an, recognising Moses as a prophet and leader in all three of these Abrahamic traditions: these stories often generate some challenging questions about judgement and justice (especially from older pupils), so in these collective worship resources, we choose to emphasise the positive messages and outcomes e.g. God seeing and responding to the cruel treatment of the people, and being *with* his people. We are very grateful to [FreeBibleImages](#) for the use of their PowerPoint slides and images for many of the assemblies this term.

This week, the focus is on the link between the final plague and the Jewish festival of Passover – the festival of freedom, which has special symbolic food at its heart. We use this idea to help us to be thankful for what our very own Harvest celebrations represent.....



How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?

This is very much linked to your school’s culture of celebrating Harvest as a community, and the importance of gratitude.

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today’s script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **If you have a seder plate in your RE artefacts collection, it would be very useful! Alternatively, buy a box of matzah, the special Jewish Passover flatbread, which are now available in most large supermarkets. As a teacher, you can find out more about the seder meal here, but please bear in mind that pupils will be learning about this festival in LKS2, so don’t spoil it for them!: [What is Passover? - BBC Bitesize](#)**
- There are suggestions for following up the theme of the collective worship in your classroom, in your reflective area, so do use the ideas if you would find them helpful.

Gathering:

Slides 1&2 Use this two-step gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. Why not invent some actions to make them extra memorable?!



- **Leader:** On the journey of life....
- **Children:** ...we are glad to be together in our school community.
- **Leader:** As we gather together....
- **Children:** ...may we learn from each other and hear from God.

Engaging:

- **Slide 3: Who likes food?!** Today’s assembly is going to have a bit of a food theme, so to get us started (and our mouths watering!) let’s have a look at some food and decide when we might eat certain things...and why.
- **Slide 4:** Birthday – to celebrate being a whole year older
- **Slide 5:** Easter egg – the egg is shaped like the empty tomb at the resurrection of Jesus
- **Slide 6:** Fortune cookies – which are a part of Chinese New Year festivals and often contain wise words to act on.
- **Slide 7:** Pancakes – the start of Lent, 40 days before Easter, remembering Jesus’ time in the desert
- **Slide 8: So what’s this?!!** Talk together about what this might be – it’s possible that some older pupils might know, but the best guess might relate to it being a cream cracker – which isn’t a bad guess!



- This is a matza – a very flat kind of bread – which is eaten as part of a Jewish festival that’s linked to the next part of our Moses story: I’ll tell you more a bit later! But for now, keep your eyes and ears open to see if you can work out why....
- **Slide 9:** When we left Moses last week.....
- **Slide 10:** ...our story ended [*sing it, as last week if you can!*]:
‘And so God sent one final plague...
I’ll tell you all next week!.....’
- So Moses and Aaron had been to see Pharaoh 10 times: 9 times he’d made – and broken – his promise to let God’s people go. The final plague was **even more terrible** than the previous 9 and it plays a big part in the festival that uses the special flat bread, so let’s find out what happened next....
- **Slide 11:** God told Moses, ‘Gather the people of Israel and tell every family of Israel that they must eat a meal of roast lamb, with herb sauce and bread. It will be a quick meal, because you need to be ready to leave when Pharaoh agrees to let you go.’
- **Slide 12:** ‘Take a small branch and paint the blood of the lamb around the door frame. It will keep you safe from the death that will come on the land. You must remember how you were slaves in Egypt, and this day of freedom, for all time,’ said God.
- **Slide 13:** ‘Stay inside your house because death will pass through the city. The oldest son in each family will die because Pharaoh will not listen and let God’s people go.’
- **Slide 14:** So, the families of Israel did as God told Moses and prayed that God would keep them safe. They gathered to eat their meal of lamb, herbs and bread, but it all happened more quickly than they were expecting....That night, even Pharaoh's eldest son became sick and died. But God kept the families of Israel safe.
- **Slide 15:** And so, Pharaoh finally changed his mind. He summoned Moses and Aaron in the middle of the night and told them to **go!**
- **Slide 16:** The people of Israel didn’t even have time to put yeast in their bread....but packed it up with all that they owned, before Pharaoh changed his mind!
- **Slide 17:** And so early the next morning, all the children of Israel left Egypt. After 430 years of being slaves they were free, just as God had promised! But this was only just the start of their big adventures..... [*add your own cliffhanger sound effects here!!!*]
- **Slide 18:** This is how Jewish people today do what God commanded the people when they left Egypt – to **remember** how they had been slaves, but that he had set them free. The festival is called Passover, because death ‘passed over’, and happens around our Easter time.
As well as being a serious time to remember, it’s also lots of fun – and has a special meal that happens, with special food put onto a plate called a seder plate [you can see it in the photo]. Each item has a place on the plate, and in the story – including matzah, which symbolises the flat bread that God’s people carried out of Egypt when they left.

Slide 19: Responding (words for worship):

In schools this week, many of us will be thinking about food too: it’s Harvest Festival time!! The foods we grow and buy can be reminders for us to be thankful too....

So let’s pause and do that now....

....as we look at the picture, I wonder what these things might remind us of?....

....I wonder how Harvest time reminds us to be thankful?....or what other things we might want to be grateful for today?....

....I wonder how being grateful might help us to build a stronger community?....

Slide 20: Prayer

Today, we are going to pray in a very different way – as always, you can choose to pray, or not to....

For a few moments, we’ll be quiet and think, but we are going to pray a very LOUD prayer shortly....



In the stillness now, think about one thing that you are super-grateful for and hold it in your thoughts.....
Now, after I say the words 'We are grateful for.....', we're going to shout out the thing that we've been thinking about in one big, thankful prayer. Are you ready?!

We are grateful for.....

Slide 21: Amen

Sending: Slide 31

Remind children of today's key message – to remember to be grateful



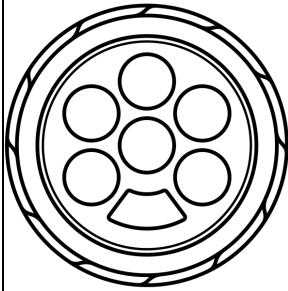
Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

All: May today's words help us to become a stronger community!

To listen to / sing:

[Every step](#) (NBD)

Slide 17: Reflective / prayer idea, using paper plates



Make a seder plate

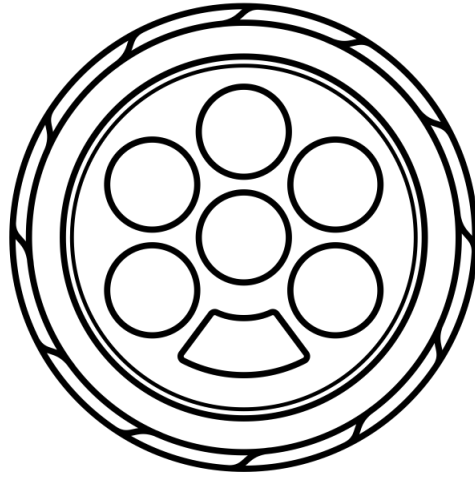
Our theme this week reminds us that we have much to be thankful for at Harvest time. Like Jewish people will put special foods on their seder plate to help them to remember how God set them free, draw some things on your plate to help you to remember or say thank you this Harvest time – or for anything else that you are grateful for.



Moses: Are we nearly there yet?!!!

4. Passover- the festival of freedom

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TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TRANSFORMING LIVES



“Thank you!”



Our theme this week reminds us that we have much to be thankful for at Harvest time.



What are you especially thankful for this Harvest time?



Like Jewish people will put special foods on their seder plate to help them to remember how God set them free, draw some things on your plate to help you to remember or say thank you this Harvest time – or for anything else that you are grateful for.

