



PASSOVER ACTIVITIES

for kids and adults

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BRING SOME NEW ACTIVITIES TO YOUR PASSOVER CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR!

Enjoy this booklet of our favorite creative crafts, recipes, and games to enhance your holiday. These ideas are great for families with children of all ages, friends who are like family, and the young at heart. Now, more than ever, let's embrace opportunities for celebration and joy. If you want to share your experiences with us on social media, tag your pictures with **#URJPassover!**

ABOUT PASSOVER

Passover is the Jewish spring festival celebrating freedom. Each year at this time, Jews gather with family and friends to retell the biblical story of the ancient Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt. We read aloud from a book called the *Haggadah*, meaning "telling," which contains the order of prayers, rituals, readings, and songs for the Passover Seder, a festive meal. Symbolic foods, like *matzah*, help retell the story as we express gratitude for our freedom and pledge to work for the freedom of all.



Psst, want to learn
more about Passover?



SIX-WORD POEMS

This activity can be done in the days leading up to Passover or during your Passover gathering. This is a great project for all ages!

Distribute paper and a pen or pencil to each person. Set the timer for six minutes. During the allotted time, each person writes a six-word poem related to Passover: “So happy to be here again,” “how soon can we eat dinner?” “Do not be bitter like *horseradish*,” or “Be sweet like *charoset* and wine.” Younger children might be instructed to “write six words about Passover.” When time’s up, people can share their poems either with the whole group or with someone sitting near them if they wish.

Post your six-word poems to your social media with the hashtag **#URJPassover** for a chance to be published on our website!



You want to hear a good matzah-pizza joke?

Never mind,
it’s pretty cheesy.

MAKE YOUR OWN MATZAH *in 18 Minutes or Less!*

When the Israelites escaped slavery, they didn’t have time to wait for their dough to rise. Therefore, matzah is always made in under 18 minutes because 18 minutes is the point at which the dough starts to rise. Technically, matzah made at home is not kosher for Passover because the flour has not been specially prepared for the holiday.

PREP:

Preheat oven to 475 degrees Fahrenheit. Line baking sheets with parchment paper. Get a bowl, knife, rolling pin, and fork. Measure 2 cups of flour and 1 cup of water. Keep extra flour nearby.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Set timer for 18 minutes.
2. Mix flour and water.
3. Knead the dough on a well-floured board until it comes together (about 4 minutes). Add additional flour as needed so the dough is just a bit sticky, but able to be rolled out.
4. Cut the dough into 8 pieces.
5. Keeping both the rolling pin and surface well-floured, roll out each piece as thin as possible.
6. Move onto a parchment-lined baking sheet. The dough will not spread, so there’s no need to leave room between the squares.
7. Make holes with a fork.
8. Bake 3-4 minutes until golden brown.



What kind of cheese do we eat on Passover?

Matzah-rella!

DECORATE PLACE CARDS

Place cards for your Seder guests can be a great way to mix up the seating arrangements so everyone gets to know one another and feels welcome. You need nothing more for this easy craft than some paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils, construction paper, and glue. For younger kids, write out guests' names on blank paper and let their inner artist go wild. Encourage older kids (or creative adults) to design place cards with symbols or designs they associate with each person or add a quote or question inside each card.



EASIEST MACAROONS EVER

This coconut macaroon recipe couldn't be easier. Adults who usually avoid the kitchen will wow guests with this winner, and kids can make these (mostly) on their own!

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 14-oz. package sweetened coconut flakes
- 1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract and 1 tsp almond extract, or 2 tsp of either
- 2 egg whites
- 1/2 tsp salt

DIRECTIONS:

1. Combine ingredients in a bowl
2. Shape macaroons into rounds with a spoon or scooper and place on an unlined baking sheet
3. Bake at 325°F for 10-15 minutes

Up the ante by mixing in chocolate chips or drizzling melted chocolate over the top!



LEGO CENTERPIECES

Ask the Lego fans in your home to use Legos to create scenes from the Passover story or to construct a Lego Seder plate. These creations make great table centerpieces! Need some inspiration? Take a look at your Haggadah or [read a quick synopsis](#).

If you don't have time to build before the Seder, sprinkle some building materials like Legos, construction paper, or clay around your table and invite guests to build scenes from the story throughout the evening!

Share your creations on social media with the hashtag **#URJPassover** for a chance to be published on our website!



Why do we have a Haggadah at Passover?

So we can Seder right words!

MAKE YOUR OWN CHAROSET MIX

Charoset, a sticky and sweet paste said to resemble the brick mortar that the enslaved Israelites would have used to build Egyptian cities, is one of the Passover foods that best reflects the cultural diversity of the Jewish people. There are as many recipes for *charoset* as there are Jews! Whether inspired by the Ashkenazi (German and Eastern European) recipe of apples, walnuts, and wine, or Sephardi (Iberian) recipes of dried fruits and spices, set out a variety of ingredients and invite guests to mix and match for their own *charoset*. Any fresh or dried fruits and nuts will do. Add a little honey, maple syrup, or agave syrup to ensure a sticky paste. Marshmallows, bananas, and chocolate chips are always a win! Pro-tip: chop dried fruits into small pieces ahead of time! [Find loads of creative \(and nut-free\) combinations](#).



EDIBLE ART

Put kids to work making chocolate-covered matzah. Craft stores sell chocolate melts in all the colors of the rainbow and then some! Melt the chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl, drizzle over some matzah, and add sprinkles!



Who was the best entrepreneur in the Torah?

Pharaoh's daughter, she pulled a prophet out of the water!

TELL ME A STORY

At the heart of every Passover Seder is a story; the Haggadah calls it “Magid,” or the “telling” of the Exodus narrative. To prepare, take this opportunity to tell a bit of your personal or family story. Here are some prompts to share with your family before Passover or around your Seder table:

1. On Passover, we retell the story of when the Israelites left Egypt. How many ways do those gathered know to say “hello” and “goodbye”? Tell a story about when you had to say “hello” to something new, or “goodbye” to something you were leaving behind.
2. If you could draw a picture of being free, what would it look like?
3. What is a question that helps you get to know other people?
4. What question do you wish someone would ask you?
5. Symbolic foods like matzah, greens dipped in saltwater, and sticky charoset, are core to the traditional Passover “telling.” Think about a food that you grew up eating with your family, whether on holidays or for other special occasions. How do your family’s favorite foods help tell a story about who you are?
6. Share a memory about a place you/your ancestors once lived or a time when you/they first arrived someplace new. Who was with you/them on that journey? What did you/they bring along? How did/you they feel at different points along the way?
7. For the Israelites to be free, Moses had to find the courage to stand up to Pharaoh. Tell a story about a time you had to stand up for yourself. How did it feel? What did you learn that might help you stand up for yourself or others in the future?

Crowdsource Your Playlist

Invite your guests to create or contribute to a Passover playlist. This is a great activity for older kids and adults. Encourage guests to look for favorite Passover tunes or, more figuratively, find music related to seasonal themes like freedom, springtime, or travel.

Spotify, **Jewish Rock Radio**, Apple Music, and other popular services offer Jewish music and holiday tunes. Looking for tunes for the Seder itself? Here’s a pre-made **list of songs** for you to brush up on.

Psst, forgot to ask for playlist ideas in time? We’ve got **two Passover playlists you’ll love!**

REMOVE YOUR (Emotional) Chameitz!

Many people prepare for Passover by cleaning their house down to the last crumb of their *chameitz*, leavened bread products traditionally avoided during the holiday. The custom is to burn those physical remnants of chameitz on the morning of the Seder. “Burning” our emotional or spiritual chameitz can also be a wonderful way to begin your evening Seder. Here’s how you might do that:

Pass out a pen and slip of paper to everyone at the table and invite them to write down a few “crumbs” from the past year that they’d like to sweep away this Passover. What disappointments, heartaches, or mistakes are they ready to let go of to enter the Seder with a clean slate?

When everyone has finished writing, pass around a bowl for “burning” the spiritual *chameitz*. For fire safety, you can forgo the flames and instead choose one of these symbolic options:

- Fill a bowl with water and watch the ink on the papers melt away.
- Decorate a box with construction paper flames and seal it tight when everyone has put in their slips.
- Buy compostable paper and sweep the spiritual chameitz into your compost bin!
- Write on “seed paper,” wet the paper, and plant it outside or in a pot.

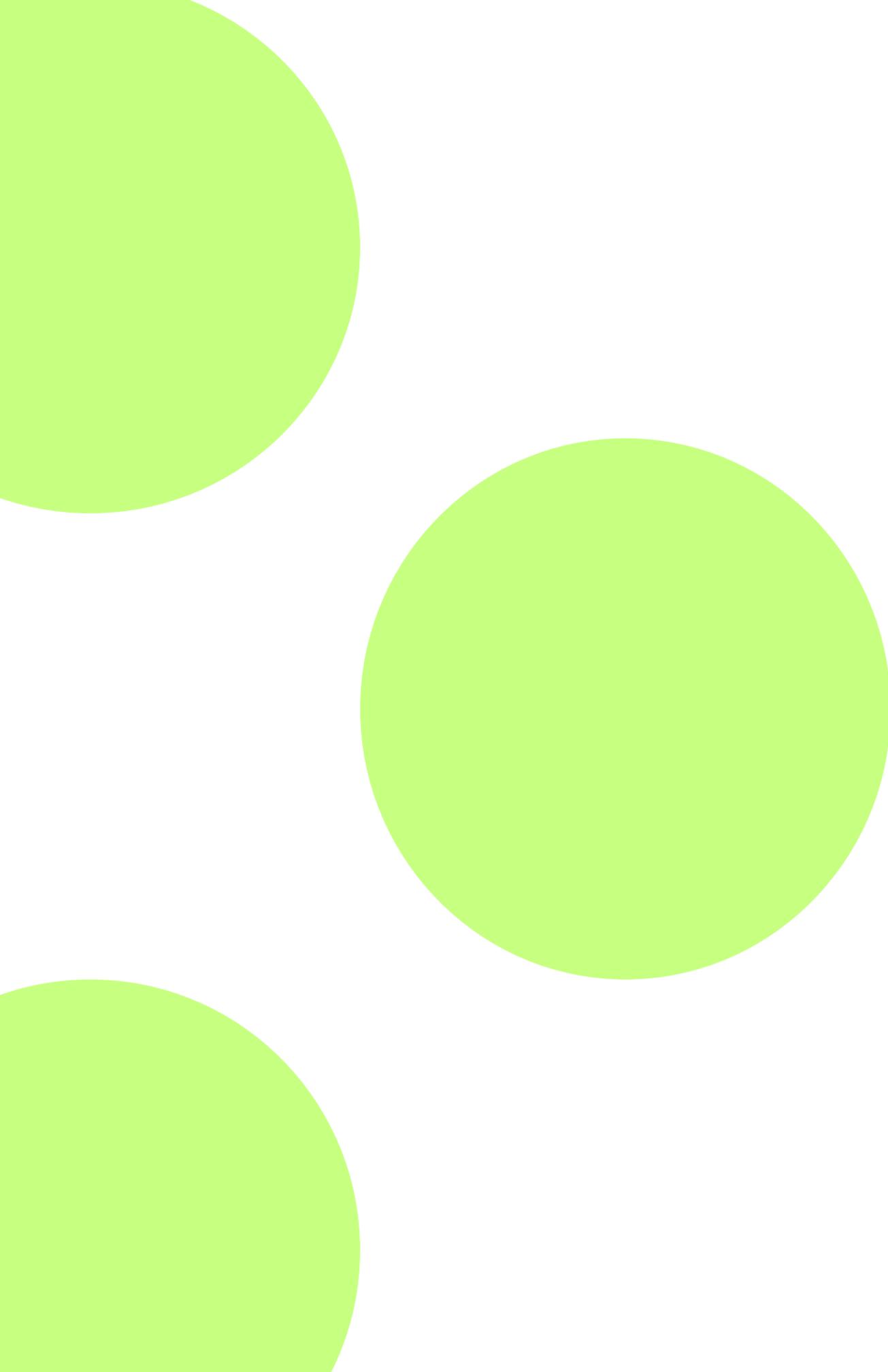
Share a reading with your Seder guests as you start the evening with this fun ritual or invite anyone to share other intentions or prayers as they’d like. Here’s a sample reading:

As we “burn” away our spiritual *chameitz*, may we feel all that we have been holding in our hearts, all that no longer serves us, the crumbs of past hurts we no longer need, burn away. Just as fire in the forest clears room for new growth, may this symbolic fire open us to the freedom that is built from an open heart and an open horizon.



What did the grape do when he got stepped on?

He let out a little wine!



PASSOVER

Glossary

Haggadah: Literally, “telling.” This is the Jewish text that sets forth the order of the Passover Seder and includes stories, songs, and prayers.

Seder: Literally, “order;” refers to the ritual dinner that includes the retelling of the story of the Israelites’ Exodus from Egypt.

Charoset: A sticky paste of fruits, nuts, spices, and wine eaten as part of the Passover Seder. Its color and consistency remind us of the bricks and mortar used by the Israelite slaves.

Chameitz: Foods that contain wheat, rye, barley, oats, or spelt, and therefore are not kosher for Passover, unless has been supervised to ensure that it has not leavened. Many Jews also avoid eating beans and legumes during the holiday.

Matzah: Unleavened bread eaten during the Passover that symbolizes the hurried departure of the Israelites from Egypt.



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