

Comprehension Workbook 2

Pesach (Festival)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

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Comprehension Workbook 2

Pesach (Festival)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create

Jewish faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Jewish Faith, Synagogue, Jewish art and writing and Jewish holy days books.)

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Unit 2: Pesach

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Pesach

The Jewish festival of Pesach, or Passover, remembers an ancient time when the Jewish people were held as slaves in Egypt. The holiday remembers the way that God freed the Jewish people from slavery. In the story of Passover, a Jewish man named Moses is chosen by God to lead the Jewish people out of Egypt. Moses was a Jew who was adopted by the Pharaoh's daughter as a baby and lived a life of luxury. But one day he killed an Egyptian who was beating a Jew and fled Egypt. Moses later married and had a family, but one day, God tells Moses that he needs to return to Egypt to help his people.



Moses was tending the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The LORD said, "I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slavery, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them out of that land into a good land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

And God said, "I will be with you. And when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

"Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Then you and the elders are to go to the Pharaoh and say to him, 'Allow us to take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.' But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word '**sacrifices**'.

b From that sentence, write what you think '**sacrifices**' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word '**sacrifices**'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to '**sacrifices**'.

e Describe one type of '**sacrific**' a person might make.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: misery	sadness

3

Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

**There is
nothing wrong
with rewriting; even
the best authors
rewrite their
work.**

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Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Celebrating Pesach



The LORD said, "I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt.

So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt."

So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them.

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush.

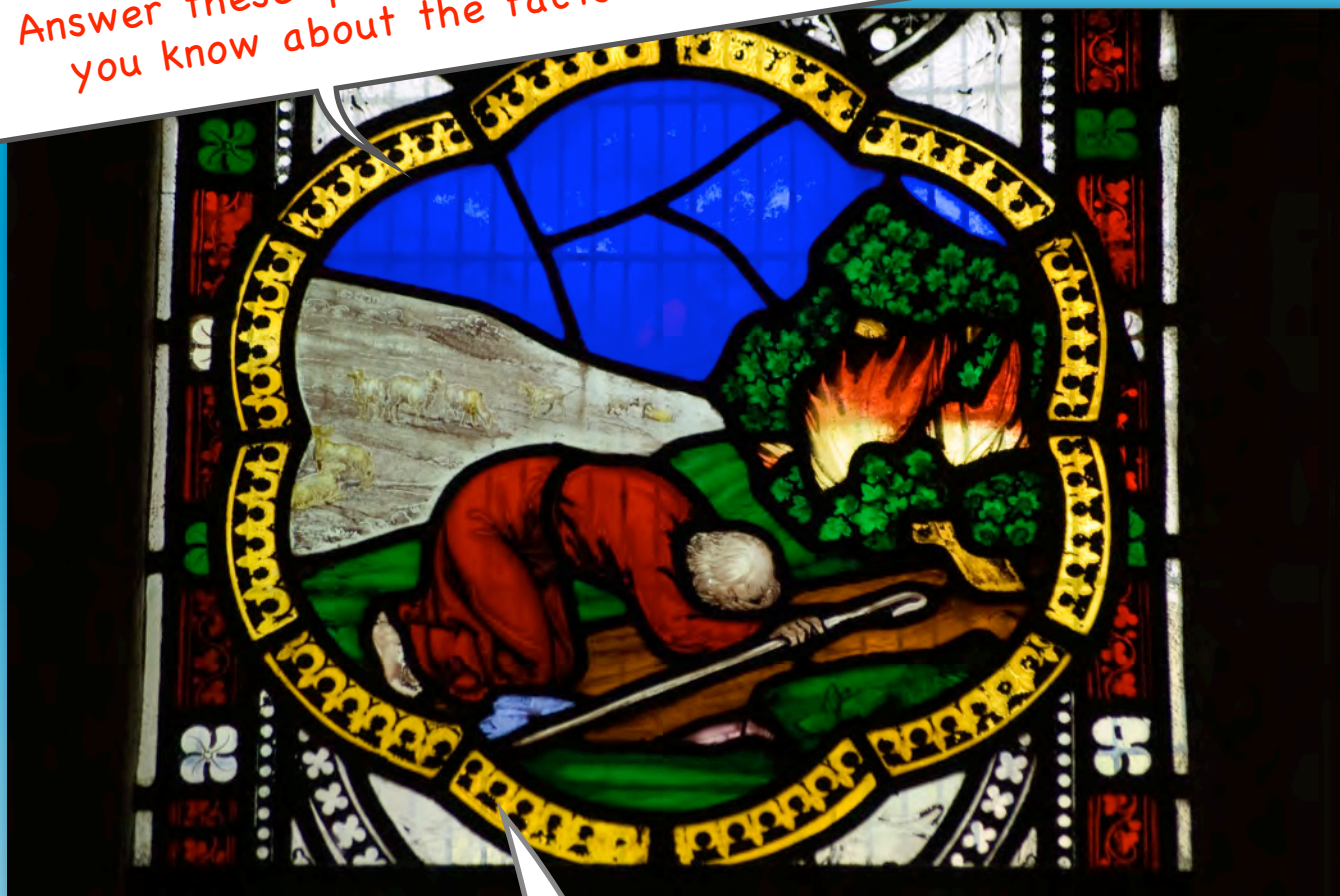
And God said, "I will be with you.

"Moses! Moses!"



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) Why did Moses go over to the bush?
- (b) Why did Moses hide his face?
- (c) Where does God say he will bring Moses and the Israelites after they leave Egypt?
- (d) Who is Moses supposed to assemble first?
- (e) What does the Lord instruct Moses and the elders to tell the Pharaoh as the reason why they want to take a three-day trip into the wilderness?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 Why do you think God spoke from a burning bush?

2 What does God tell Moses to say to the elders?

3 God tells Moses that he will "strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform" - what do you think God means by "wonders"?

4 Why did the Lord decide to rescue the Israelites from Egypt?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

Food for Pesach



1 What would you think if a burning bush started talking to you?

2 Do you think the elders will believe Moses when he says God told him to come back to Egypt and get everyone ready to leave?

3 What do you think God means when he says he will take the Israelites to a land flowing with milk and honey?

4 God says that he saw the suffering of the Jews, why do you think he waited so long to save them from slavery?

5 Do you think Moses was afraid of going back to Egypt?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Helping out

Discuss how people today might go about helping a group of people who were not being treated right? If you felt that a group of people were being treated badly, how would you get people to pay attention and do something?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



A burning bush

You are walking in the park one day when you hear someone calling your name. You turn around and see a bush on fire, but it is not burning up. The voice is coming from the bush. The voice is asking you to help people who are in need...

(Now continue the story of describing what you do next...)

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